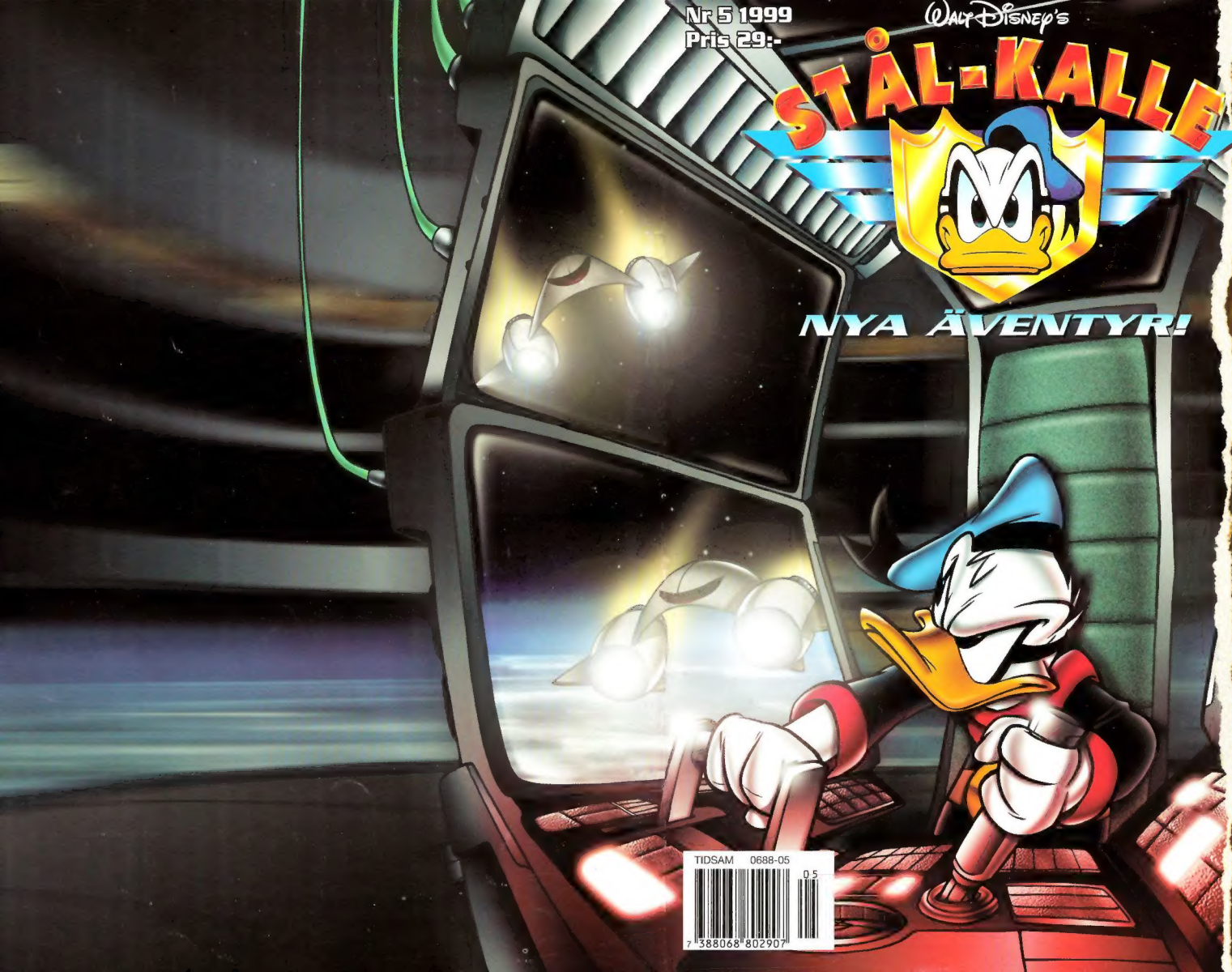
Nr 5 1999
Pris 29:-

Walt Disney's

STÅL-KALLE



NYA ÄVENTYR!

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THE MASTIFFS OF THE UNIVERSE

Nr 5 1999
Pris 29:-

Walt Disney's

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NYA ÄVENTYR!

THE MASTIFFS ORDER

THE ULTIMATE UNIVERSE

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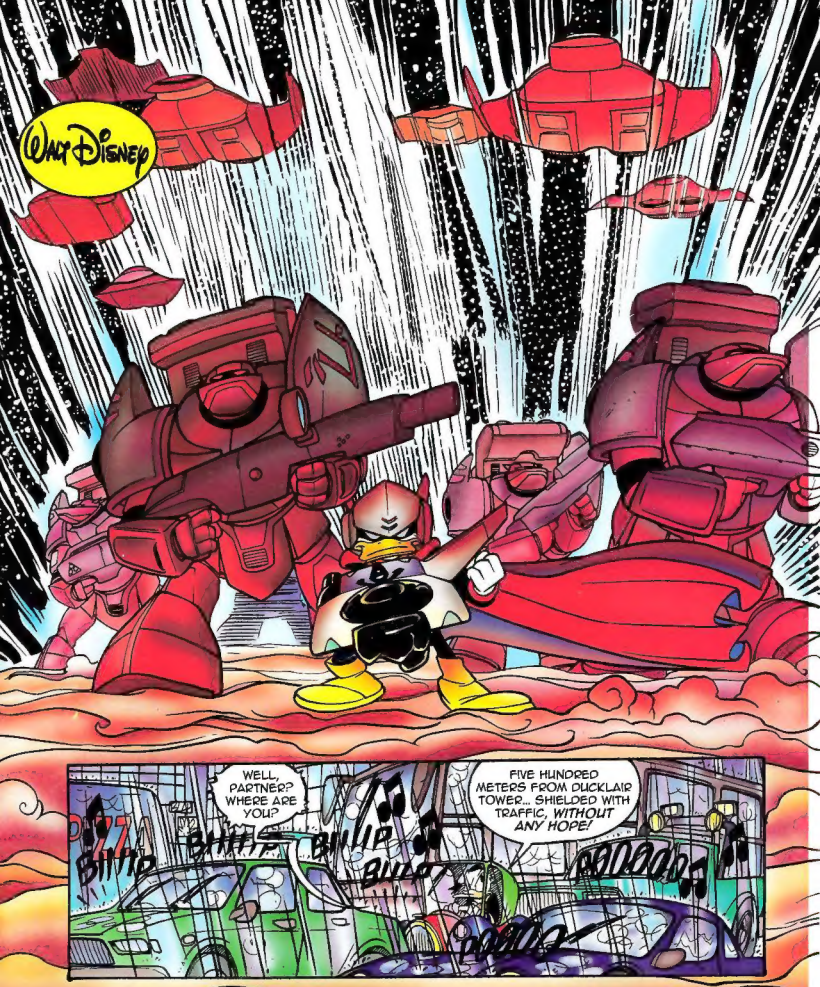

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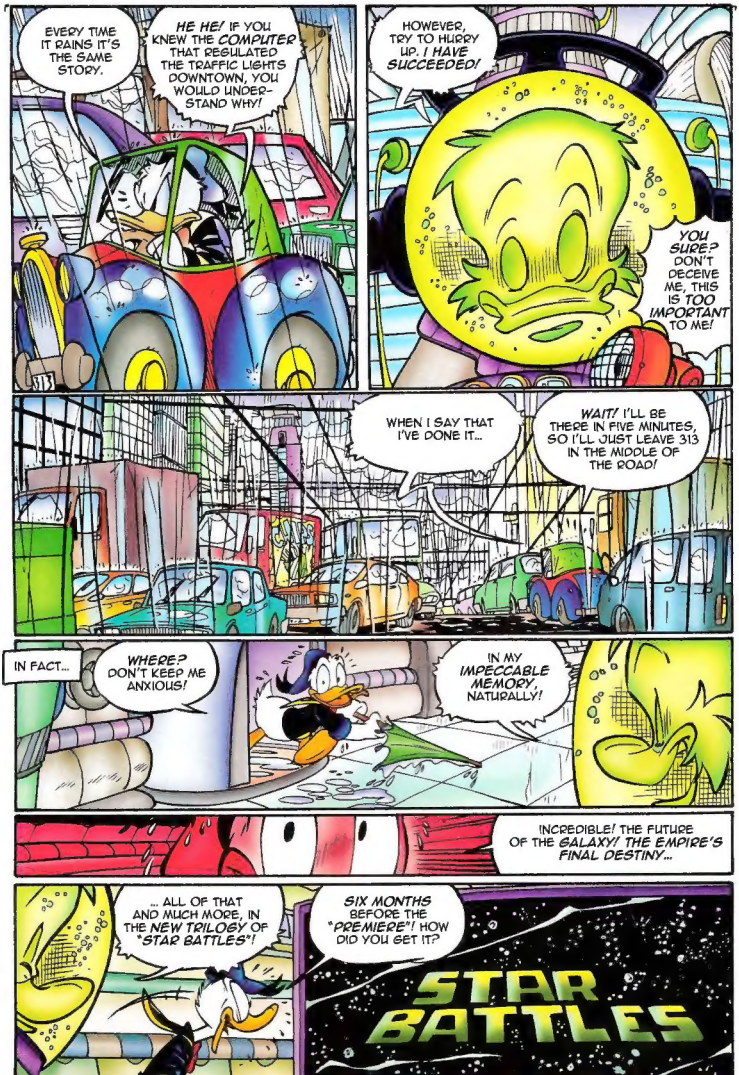
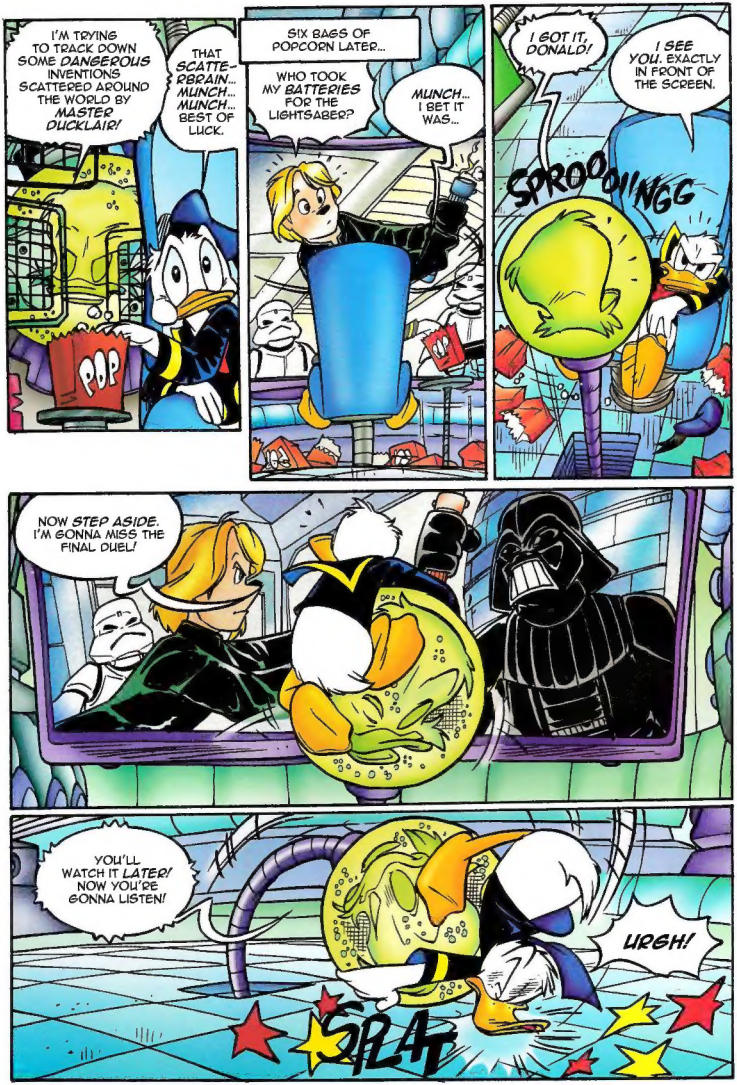
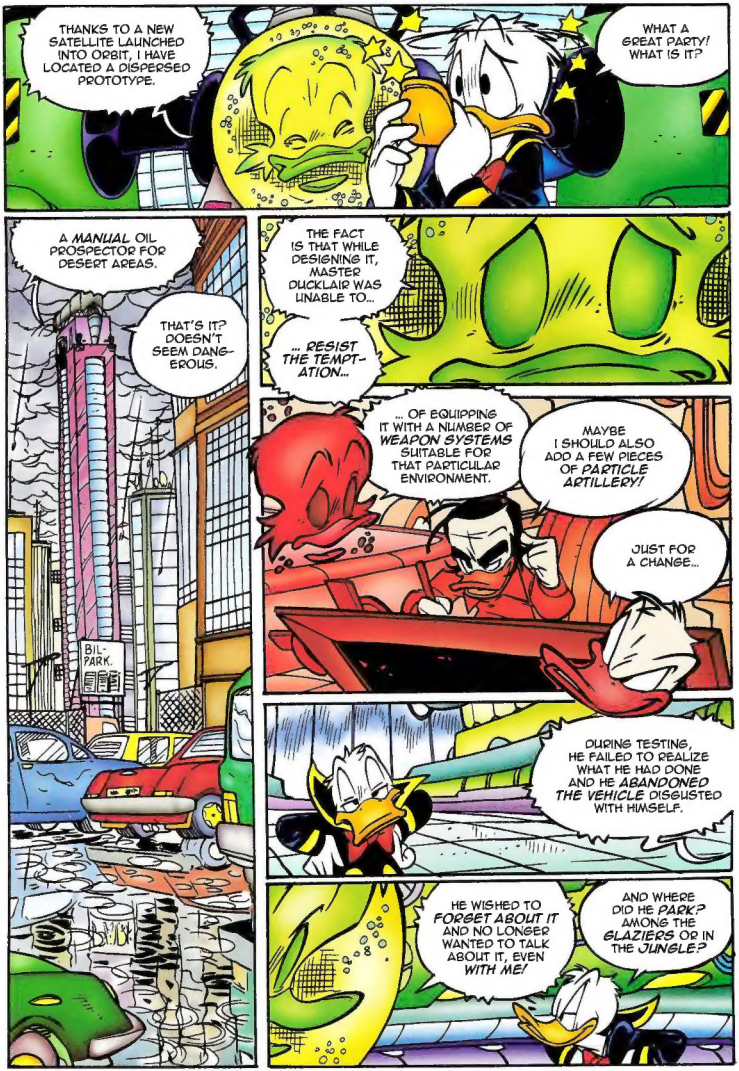
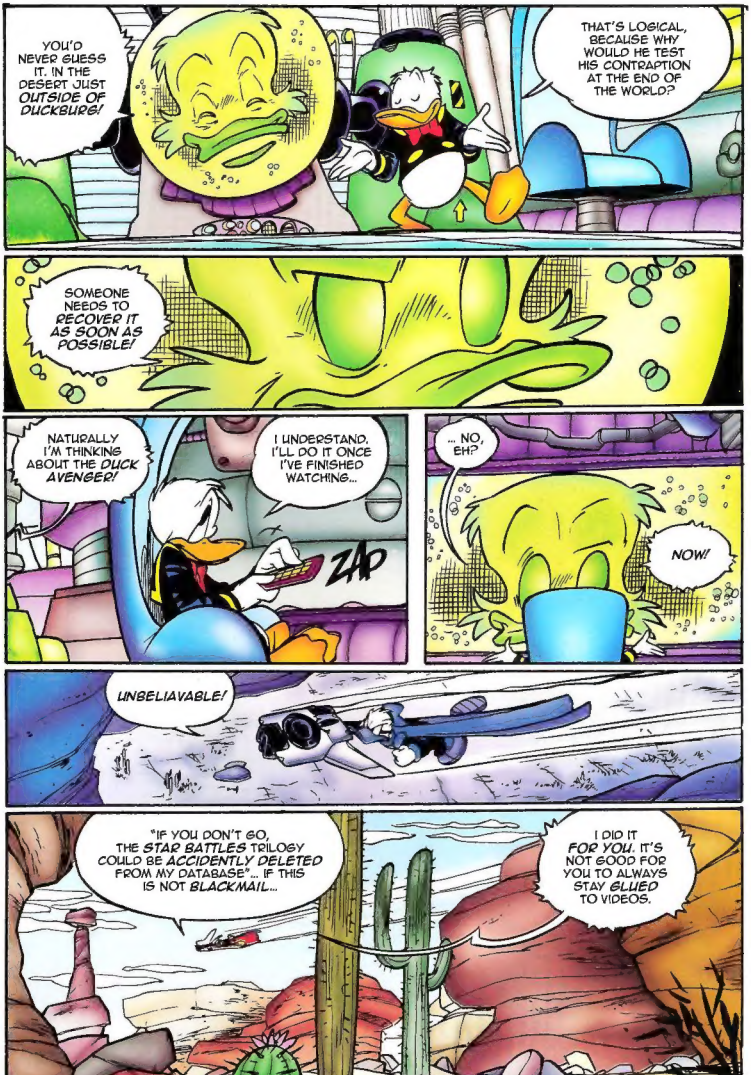
UNIVERSUMS JÄKTHUNDAR

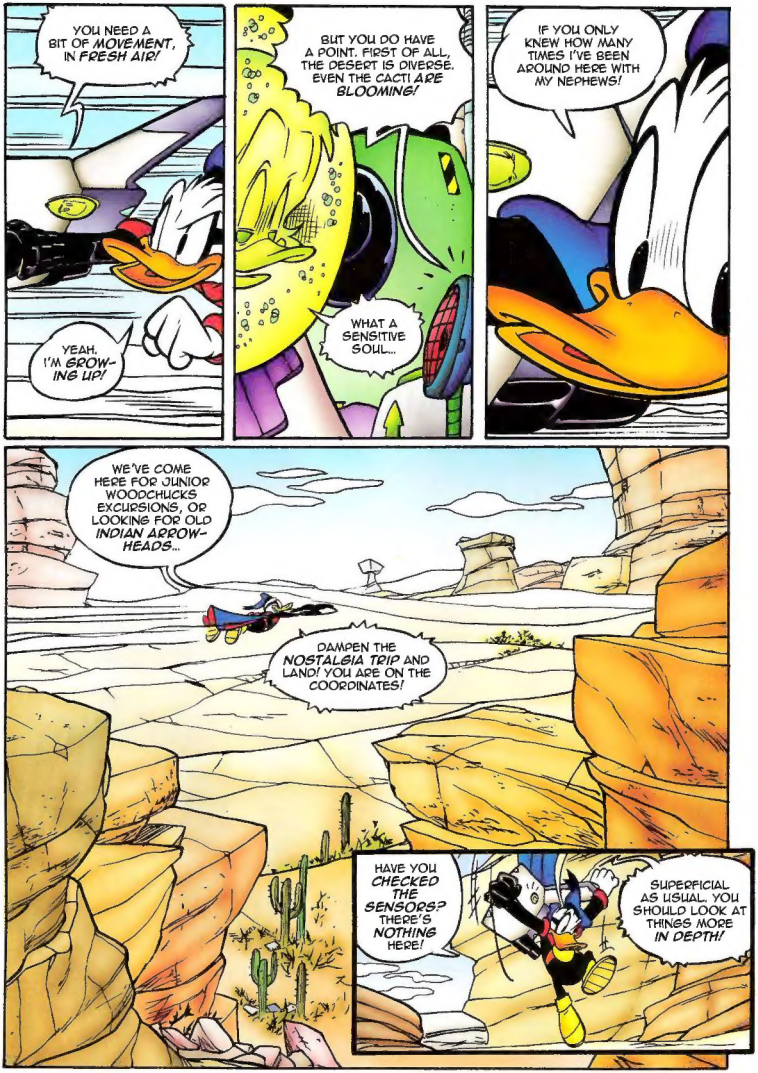

EVERY TIME IT RAINS IT'S THE SAME STORY.
HE HE! IF YOU KNEW THE COMPUTER THAT REGULATED THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS DOWNTOWN, YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND WHY!
313
HOWEVER, TRY TO HURRY UP. I HAVE SUCCEEDED!
YOU SURE? DON'T DECEIVE ME, THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT TO ME!
WHEN I SAY THAT I'VE DONE IT...
WAIT! I'LL BE THERE IN FIVE MINUTES, SO I'LL JUST LEAVE 313 IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD!
IN FACT...
WHERE? DON'T KEEP ME ANXIOUS!
IN MY IMPECCABLE MEMORY, NATURALLY!
INCREDIBLE! THE FUTURE OF THE GALAXY! THE EMPIRE'S FINAL DESTINY...
... ALL OF THAT AND MUCH MORE, IN THE NEW TRILOGY OF "STAR BATTLES"!
SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE "PREMIERE"! HOW DID YOU GET IT?
STAR BATTLES

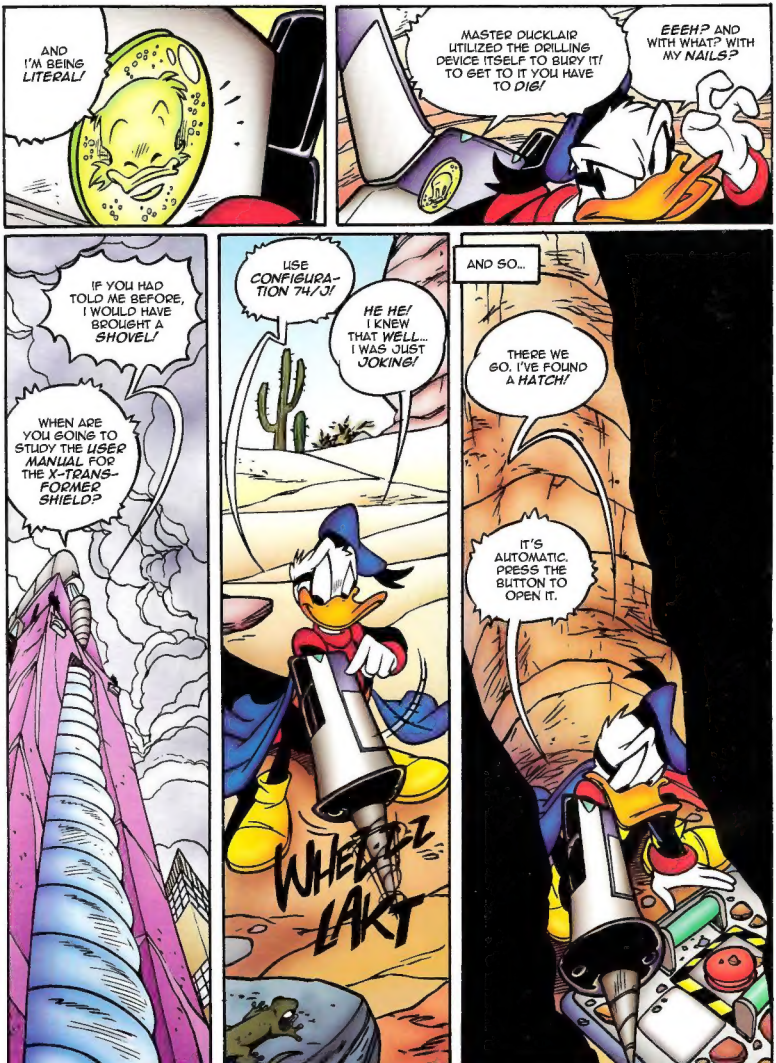
IT WAS A CINCH. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS, DIRECTOR GEORGE DUCKAS...
"... HAS ABUNDANTLY USED EVERY KINDS OF DIGITALIZED SPECIAL EFFECTS!"
SO I WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN A... COMPLIMENTARY COPY FROM THE COMPANY THAT ELECTRONICALLY DEVELOPED YOUR TRI-MISHMASH.
COSMIC! I DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED FOR THE NEXT SIX HOURS!
HAVE FUN! IF YOU ALSO WANT BEVERAGES AND POTATO CHIPS, GIVE ME A WHISTLE.
HUH? YOU'RE NOT GONNA WATCH?
I HAVE ALREADY SEEN IT! AND I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DO.

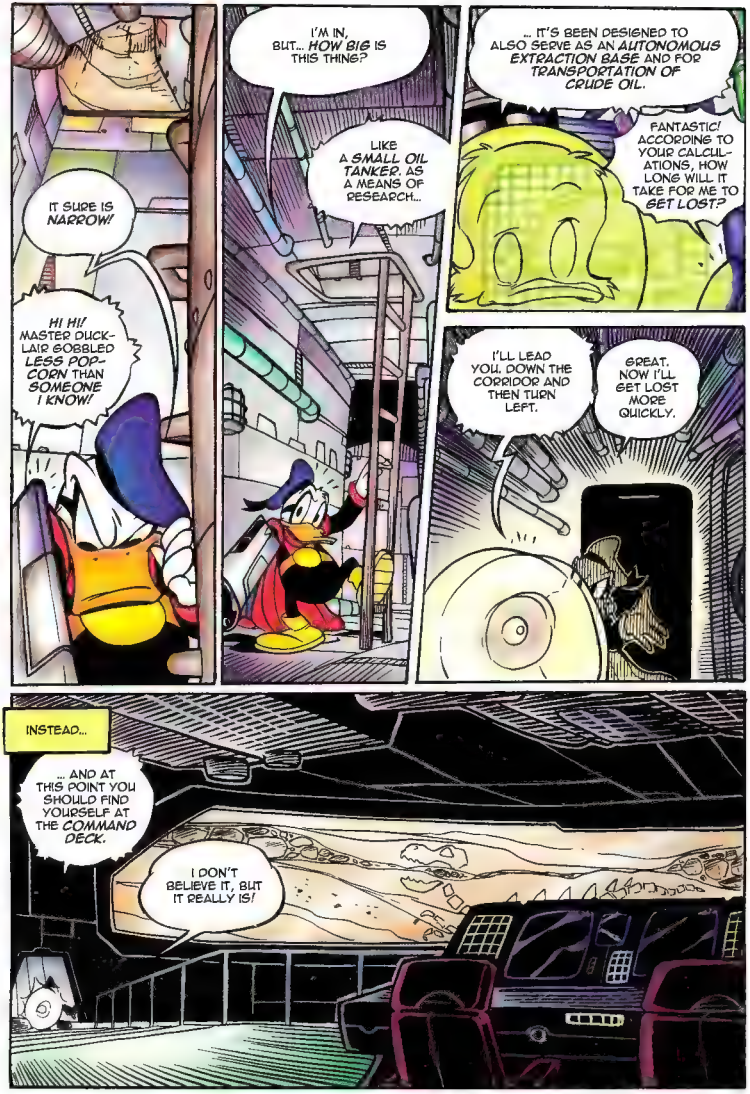

I'M TRYING TO TRACK DOWN SOME DANGEROUS INVENTIONS SCATTERED AROUND THE WORLD BY MASTER DUCKLAIR!
THAT SCATTE-RBRAIN... MUNCH... MUNCH... BEST OF LUCK.
POP
SIX BAGS OF POPCORN LATER...
WHO TOOK MY BATTERIES FOR THE LIGHTSABER?
MUNCH... I BET IT WAS...
I GOT IT, DONALD!
I SEE YOU. EXACTLY IN FRONT OF THE SCREEN.
SPROOOIINGG
NOW STEP ASIDE. I'M GONNA MISS THE FINAL DUEL!
YOU'LL WATCH IT LATER! NOW YOU'RE GONNA LISTEN!
URGH!
SPLAT


THANKS TO A NEW SATELLITE LAUNCHED INTO ORBIT, I HAVE LOCATED A DISPERSED PROTOTYPE.
WHAT A GREAT PARTY! WHAT IS IT?
A MANUAL OIL PROSPECTOR FOR DESERT AREAS.
THAT'S IT? DOESN'T SEEM DANGEROUS.
BIL-PARK.
THE FACT IS THAT WHILE DESIGNING IT, MASTER DUCKLAIR WAS UNABLE TO...
... RESIST THE TEMPTATION...
... OF EQUIPPING IT WITH A NUMBER OF WEAPON SYSTEMS SUITABLE FOR THAT PARTICULAR ENVIRONMENT.
MAYBE I SHOULD ALSO ADD A FEW PIECES OF PARTICLE ARTILLERY!
JUST FOR A CHANGE...
DURING TESTING, HE FAILED TO REALIZE WHAT HE HAD DONE AND HE ABANDONED THE VEHICLE DISGUSTED WITH HIMSELF.
HE WISHED TO FORGET ABOUT IT AND NO LONGER WANTED TO TALK ABOUT IT, EVEN WITH ME!
AND WHERE DID HE PARK? AMONG THE GLAZIERS OR IN THE JUNGLE?


YOU'D NEVER GUESS IT. IN THE DESERT JUST OUTSIDE OF DUCKBURG!
THAT'S LOGICAL, BECAUSE WHY WOULD HE TEST HIS CONTRAPTION AT THE END OF THE WORLD?
SOMEONE NEEDS TO RECOVER IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
NATURALLY I'M THINKING ABOUT THE DUCK AVENGER!
I UNDERSTAND, I'LL DO IT ONCE I'VE FINISHED WATCHING...
ZAP
... NO, EH?
NOW!
UNBELIAVABLE!
"IF YOU DON'T GO, THE STAR BATTLES TRILOGY COULD BE ACCIDENTLY DELETED FROM MY DATABASE"... IF THIS IS NOT BLACKMAIL...
I DID IT FOR YOU. IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO ALWAYS STAY GLUED TO VIDEOS.

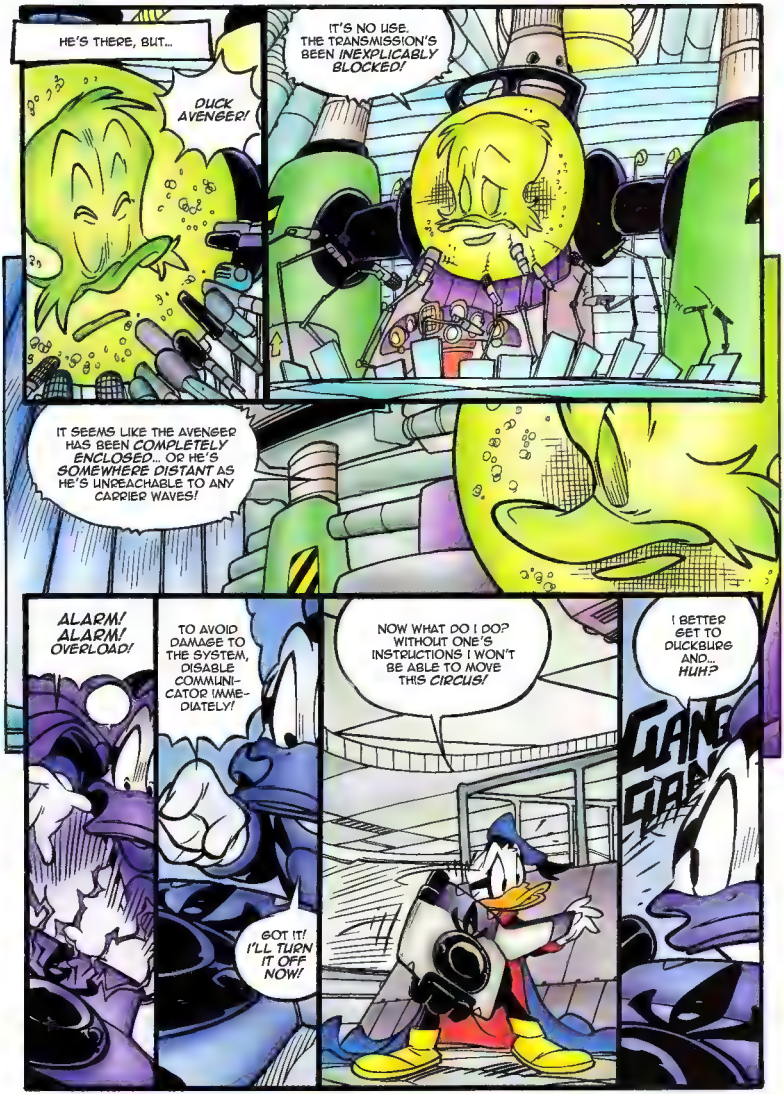

YOU NEED A BIT OF MOVEMENT, IN FRESH AIR!
YEAH, I'M GROWING UP!
BUT YOU DO HAVE A POINT. FIRST OF ALL, THE DESERT IS DIVERSE. EVEN THE CACTI ARE BLOOMING!
WHAT A SENSITIVE SOUL...
IF YOU ONLY KNEW HOW MANY TIMES I'VE BEEN AROUND HERE WITH MY NEPHEWS!
WE'VE COME HERE FOR JUNIOR WOODCHUCKS EXCURSIONS, OR LOOKING FOR OLD INDIAN ARROWHEADS...
DAMPEN THE NOSTALGIA TRIP AND LAND! YOU ARE ON THE COORDINATES!
HAVE YOU CHECKED THE SENSORS? THERE'S NOTHING HERE!
SUPERFICIAL AS USUAL. YOU SHOULD LOOK AT THINGS MORE IN DEPTH!

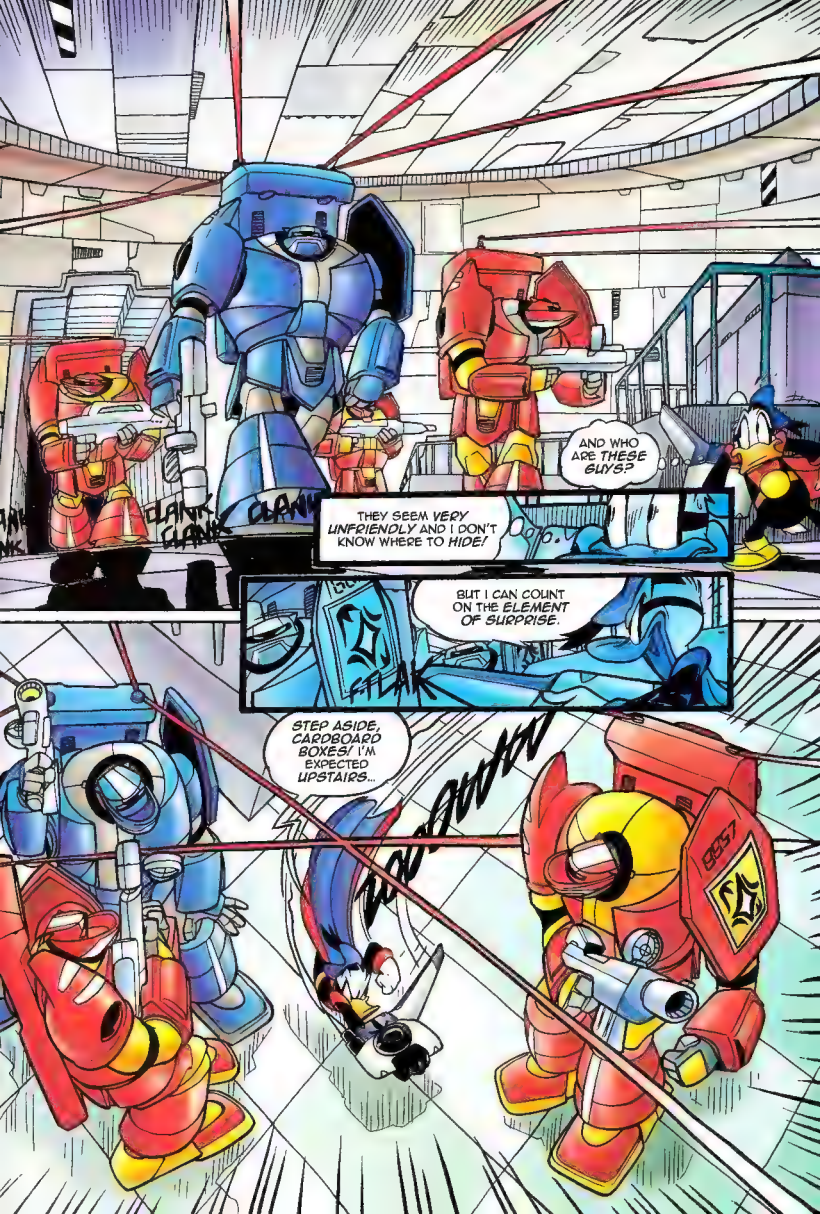

AND I'M BEING LITERAL!
MASTER DUCKLAIR UTILIZED THE DRILLING DEVICE ITSELF TO BURY IT! TO GET TO IT YOU HAVE TO DIG!
EEEH? AND WITH WHAT? WITH MY NAILS?
IF YOU HAD TOLD ME BEFORE, I WOULD HAVE BROUGHT A SHOVEL!
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO STUDY THE USER MANUAL FOR THE X-TRANS-FORMER SHIELD?
USE CONFIGURA-TION 74/J!
HE HE! I KNEW THAT WELL... I WAS JUST JOKING!
WHEEZ LAKT
AND SO...
THERE WE GO. I'VE FOUND A HATCH!
IT'S AUTOMATIC. PRESS THE BUTTON TO OPEN IT.


IT SURE IS NARROW!
HI HI! MASTER DUCK-LAIR GOBBLED LESS POP-CORN THAN SOMEONE I KNOW!
I'M IN, BUT... HOW BIG IS THIS THING?
LIKE A SMALL OIL TANKER. AS A MEANS OF RESEARCH...
... IT'S BEEN DESIGNED TO ALSO SERVE AS AN AUTONOMOUS EXTRACTION BASE AND FOR TRANSPORTATION OF CRUDE OIL.
FANTASTIC! ACCORDING TO YOUR CALCUL-ATIONS, HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR ME TO GET LOST?
I'LL LEAD YOU. DOWN THE CORRIDOR AND THEN TURN LEFT.
GREAT. NOW I'LL GET LOST MORE QUICKLY.
INSTEAD...
... AND AT THIS POINT YOU SHOULD FIND YOURSELF AT THE COMMAND DECK.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT IT REALLY IS!

NOW WHAT?
YOU MUST REINITIALIZE THE INSTRUMENTS.
I'LL GIVE YOU THE CODES THAT NEED TO BE INSERTED AND...
BR-R-RO-OOOMM
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
OH, NOTHING! IT'S COMING FROM THE SURFACE.
BRRROOOOMMMM
PROBABLY JUST THUNDER. I KNOW THAT THE CACTI ARE GOING TO ENJOY BEING WATERED.
YET THE SHADOW DARKENING THE DESERT SEEMS MORE CONCRETE THAN A THUNDERSTORM CLOUD...
BR-R-RRROOOOOMMM
CRRRREEEAAKKLE

VRROOOMBLE
HEY! WHAT THE...
ONE, CAN YOU HEAR ME? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SCRSSH
CONNECTION INTERRUPTED. TO ATTEMPT TO REESTABLISH, ACTIVATE INCREMENTOR XX-K.
I FEEL THAT SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG.
CLIK CLICK
LET'S TRY XX-K! ARE YOU THERE, ONE?

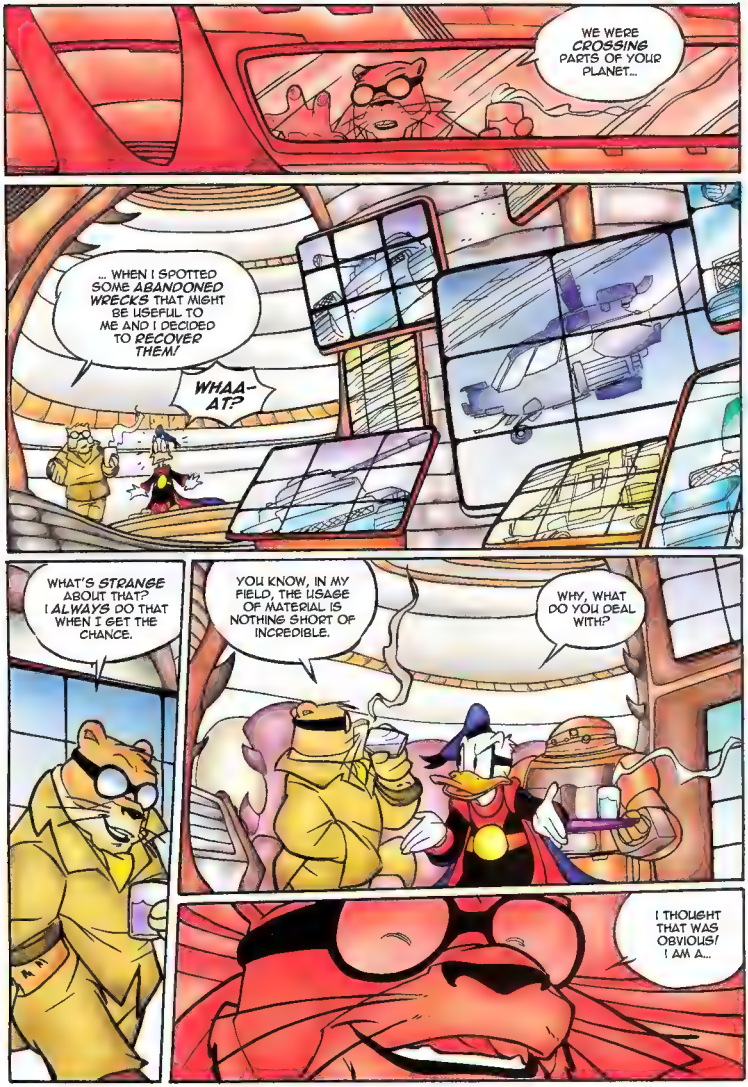

HE'S THERE, BUT...
DUCK AVENGER!
IT'S NO USE. THE TRANSMISSION'S BEEN INEXPLICABLY BLOCKED!
IT SEEMS LIKE THE AVENGER HAS BEEN COMPLETELY ENCLOSED... OR HE'S SOMEWHERE DISTANT AS HE'S UNREACHABLE TO ANY CARRIER WAVES!
ALARM! ALARM! OVERLOAD!
TO AVOID DAMAGE TO THE SYSTEM, DISABLE COMMUNICATOR IMMEDIATELY!
GOT IT! I'LL TURN IT OFF NOW!
NOW WHAT DO I DO? WITHOUT ONE'S INSTRUCTIONS I WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE THIS CIRCUS!
I BETTER GET TO DUCKBURG AND... HUH?

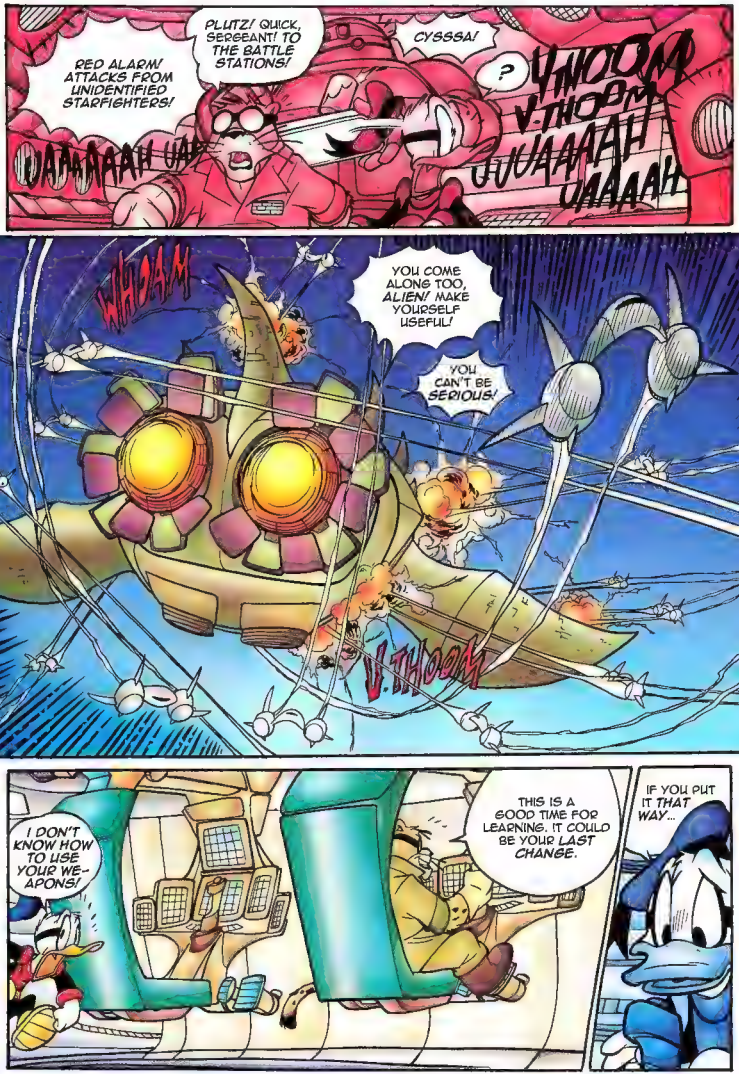

CLANK CLANK CLANK
AND WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
THEY SEEM VERY UNFRIENDLY AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO HIDE!
BUT I CAN COUNT ON THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.
FILAK
STEP ASIDE, CARDBOARD BOXES! I'M EXPECTED UPSTAIRS...

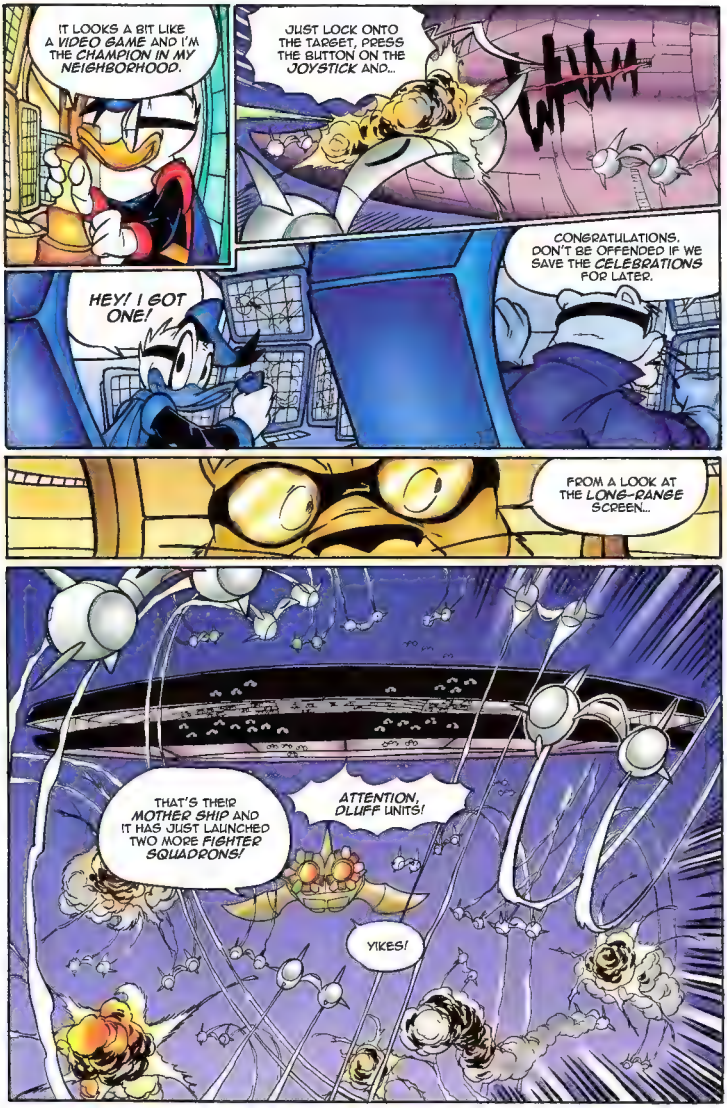
... AND YOU'RE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE!
BLOOING!
WE'LL GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER ANOTHER TIME! OR PERHAPS, NEVER!
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR...
... EH?
I MUST HAVE MISSED SOMETHING... WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DESERT?

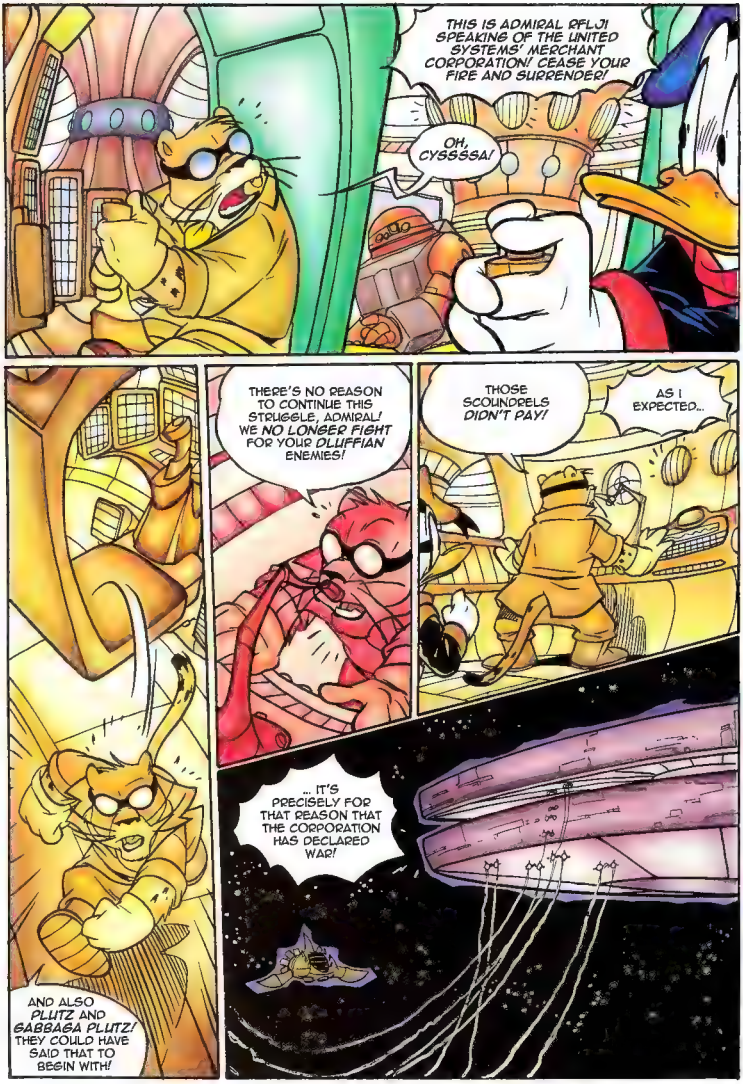
WELL, I'LL FIND IT LATER. NOW I HAVE VISITORS!
SINCE YOU CARE SO MUCH, LET'S INTRODUCE OURSELVES!
YOU GO FIRST... NICELY, IF YOU WANT TO AVOID PERMANENT NEUTRON DAMAGE!
HUH?
THAT'S AN INVITATION THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO REFUSE...
... IF THIS WAS MY HEAD!

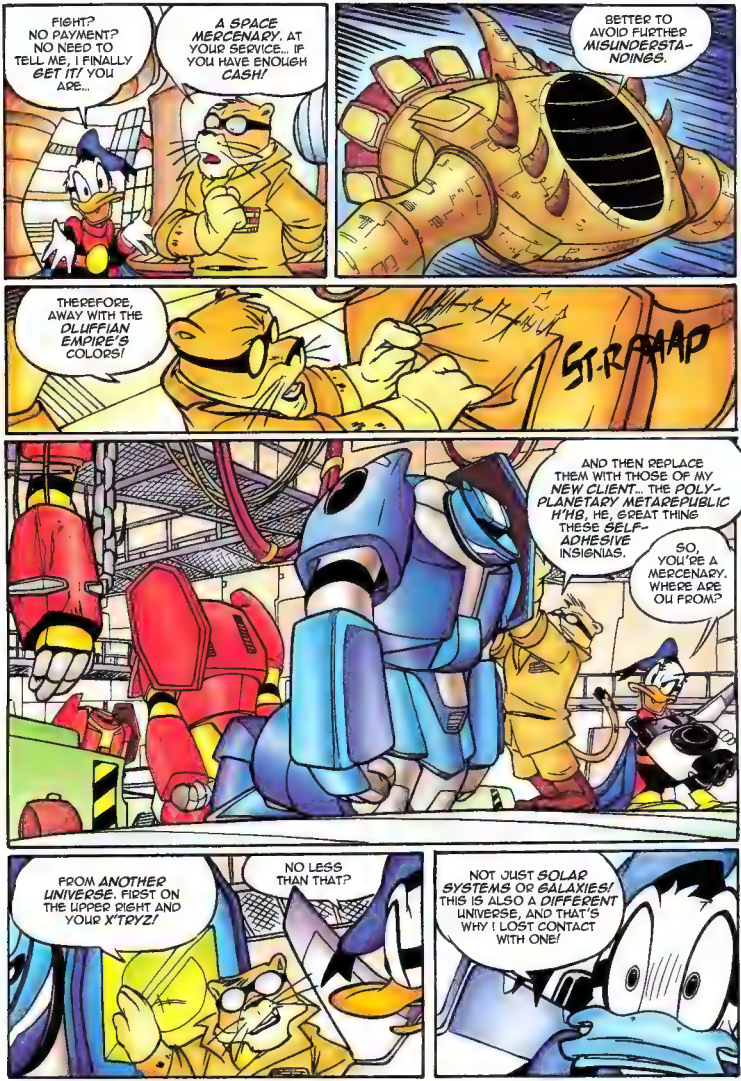
WELCOME ONBOARD THE SPACESHIP "LADY ELENTHARI", ALIEN.
I AM COLONEL NEOPARD, COMMANDER AND PROPRIETOR.
AND I AM YOUR PRISONER, PAYING DEARLY FOR THIS INTRUSION, ETCETERA ETCETERA! RIGHT?
WRONG. IF YOU ARE NOT LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, THEN WE HAVE NO REASON TO QUARREL.
SERIOUSLY? I'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED AND...
DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD. IT WAS A MISTAKE!
SIMPLY, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU WERE ON BOARD! THANK YOU, SERGEANT Q'WYNKENNON.
HBE CHAANNIE, IIHT'SS HHUUIR UWV A BRUUNIN', CHAEIRR?! *
* "BE AWARE THAT IT'S VERY HOT, SIR!"


WE WERE CROSSING PARTS OF YOUR PLANET...
... WHEN I SPOTTED SOME ABANDONED WRECKS THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO ME AND I DECIDED TO RECOVER THEM!
WHAA-AT?
WHAT'S STRANGE ABOUT THAT? I ALWAYS DO THAT WHEN I GET THE CHANCE.
YOU KNOW, IN MY FIELD, THE USAGE OF MATERIAL IS NOTHING SHORT OF INCREDIBLE.
WHY, WHAT DO YOU DEAL WITH?
I THOUGHT THAT WAS OBVIOUS! I AM A...

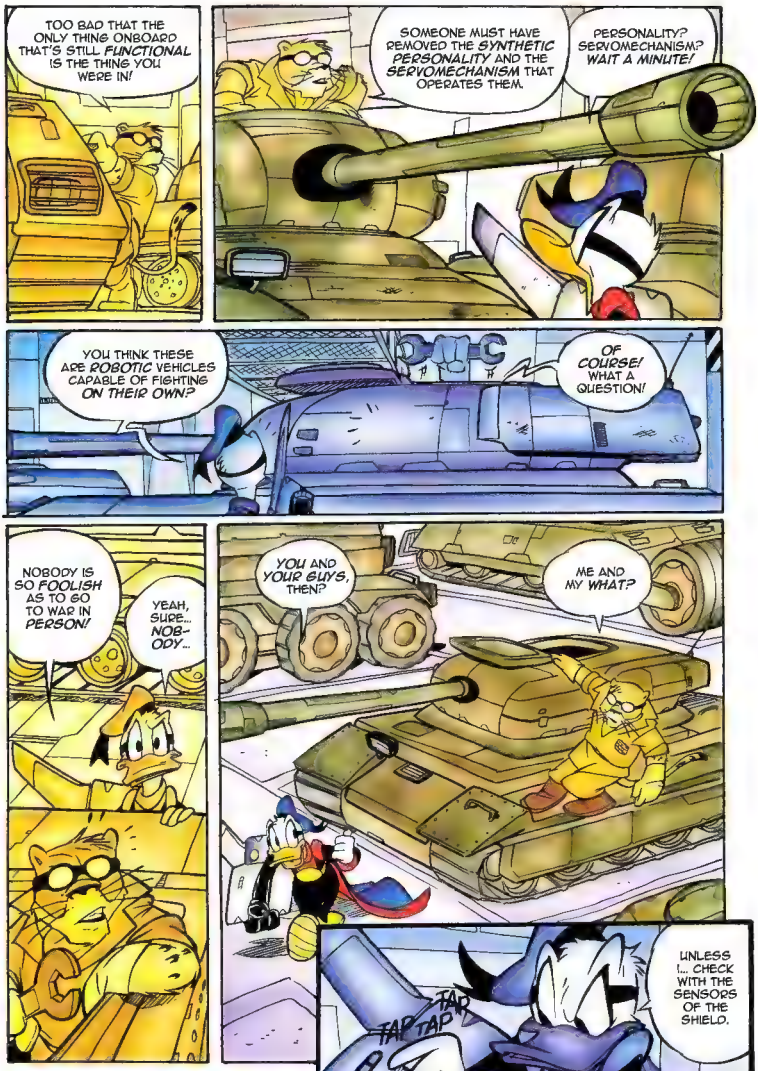

RED ALARM! ATTACKS FROM UNIDENTIFIED STARFIGHTERS!
PLUTZ! QUICK, SERGEANT! TO THE BATTLE STATIONS!
CYSSSA!
?
VHOOM V-THOOM
UAAAAAH UAAAAH
UAAAAAH UAP
WHOAM
YOU COME ALONG TOO, ALIEN! MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
V-THOOM
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE YOUR WE-APONS!
THIS IS A GOOD TIME FOR LEARNING. IT COULD BE YOUR LAST CHANGE.
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...


IT LOOKS A BIT LIKE A VIDEO GAME AND I'M THE CHAMPION IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD.
JUST LOCK ONTO THE TARGET, PRESS THE BUTTON ON THE JOYSTICK AND...
WHAM
HEY! I GOT ONE!
CONGRATULATIONS. DON'T BE OFFENDED IF WE SAVE THE CELEBRATIONS FOR LATER.
FROM A LOOK AT THE LONG-RANGE SCREEN...
THAT'S THEIR MOTHER SHIP AND IT HAS JUST LAUNCHED TWO MORE FIGHTER SQUADRONS!
ATTENTION, DLUFF UNITS!
YIKES!


THIS IS ADMIRAL AFLJI SPEAKING OF THE UNITED SYSTEMS' MERCHANT CORPORATION! CEASE YOUR FIRE AND SURRENDER!
OH, CYSSSSA!
THERE'S NO REASON TO CONTINUE THIS STRUGGLE, ADMIRAL! WE NO LONGER FIGHT FOR YOUR DLUFFIAN ENEMIES!
THOSE SCOUNDRELS DIDN'T PAY!
AS I EXPECTED...
... IT'S PRECISELY FOR THAT REASON THAT THE CORPORATION HAS DECLARED WAR!
AND ALSO PLUTZ AND GABBAGA PLUTZ! THEY COULD HAVE SAID THAT TO BEGIN WITH!

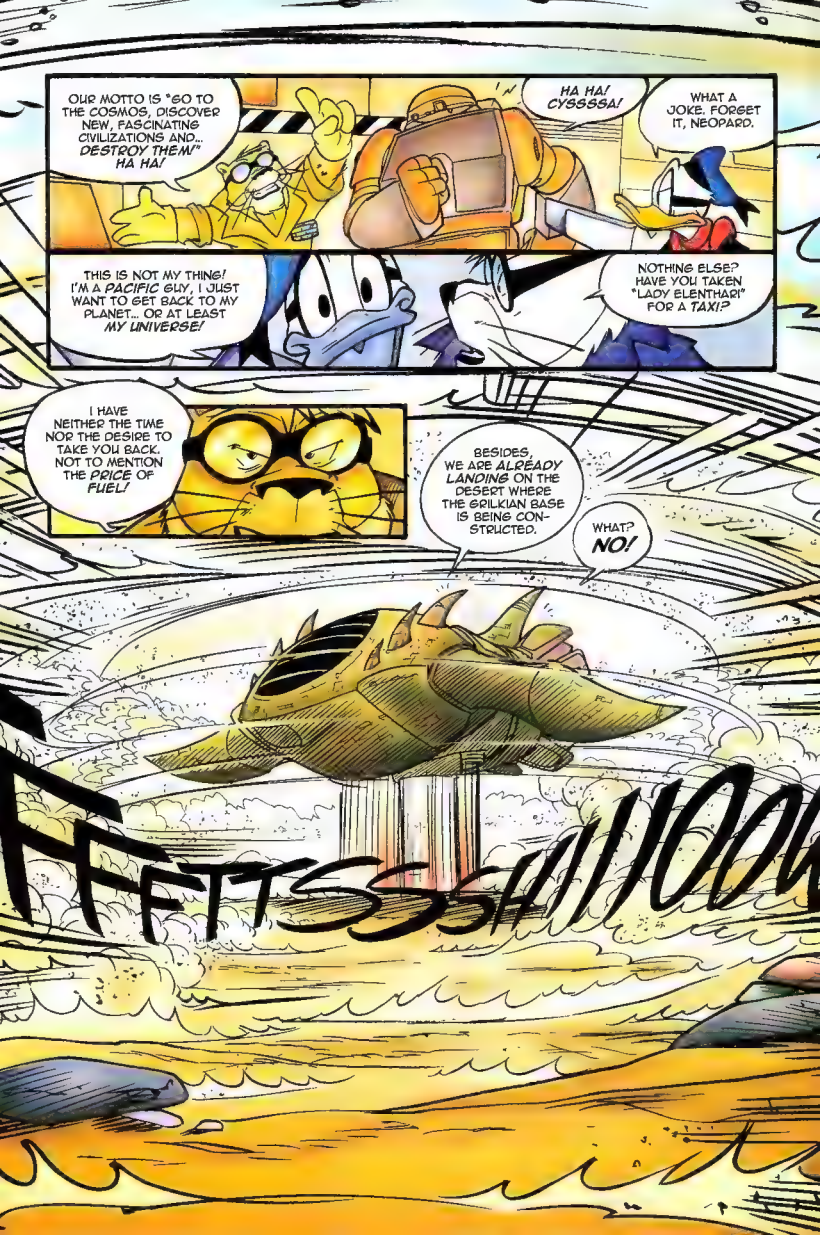

FIGHT? NO PAYMENT? NO NEED TO TELL ME, I FINALLY GET IT! YOU ARE...
A SPACE MERCENARY. AT YOUR SERVICE... IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH CASH!
BETTER TO AVOID FURTHER MISUNDERSTANDINGS.
THEREFORE, AWAY WITH THE DLUFFIAN EMPIRE'S COLORS!
ST-RAAAP
AND THEN REPLACE THEM WITH THOSE OF MY NEW CLIENT... THE POLY-PLANETARY METAREPUBLIC H'HB. HE, GREAT THING THESE SELF-ADHESIVE INSIGNIAS.
SO, YOU'RE A MERCENARY. WHERE ARE OU FROM?
FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE. FIRST ON THE UPPER RIGHT AND YOUR X'TRYZ!
NO LESS THAN THAT?
NOT JUST SOLAR SYSTEMS OR GALAXIES! THIS IS ALSO A DIFFERENT UNIVERSE, AND THAT'S WHY I LOST CONTACT WITH ONE!

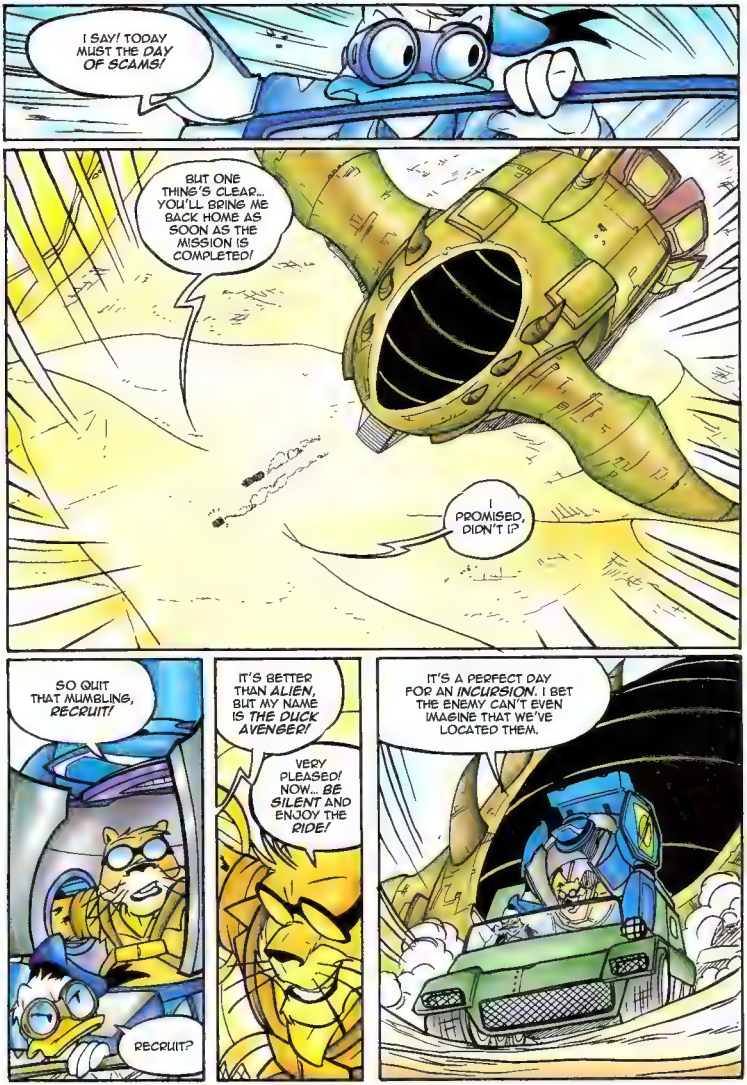
WE'RE TOO FAR AWAY...
I SHOULD HAVE CHANGED THEM EARLIER. THE METAREPUBLIC I WAS HIRED BY PAID IN ADVANCE, UNLIKE THOSE DLUFF LICE.
THE GALACTIC GRAND DUKE OF GRILK, ETERNAL ADVERSARY TO H'HB, IS SETTING UP A LOGISTICS BASE FOR ITS FLEET IN THE DESERT OF A PERIPHERAL PLANET.
IF HE SUCCEEDS, THE CENTURIES OLD FEUD BETWEEN H'HB AND GRILK WILL EXPAND FROM THERE.
IIHT VOHOS HAIEE BINN AAN BOOD GEANTIIN HHIN'. "
" "IT WOULD BE A BIG MESS."
AH.
THE H'HBBIANS CAN'T AFFORD AN OPEN FRONT FOR A SECOND, SO I'VE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DESTROY THE BASE BEFORE IT'S COMPLETED.
THIS IS WHY I'VE TRIED PROCURE MORE MEANS OF FIGHTING IN THE DESERT! WITH WHAT THEY COST...

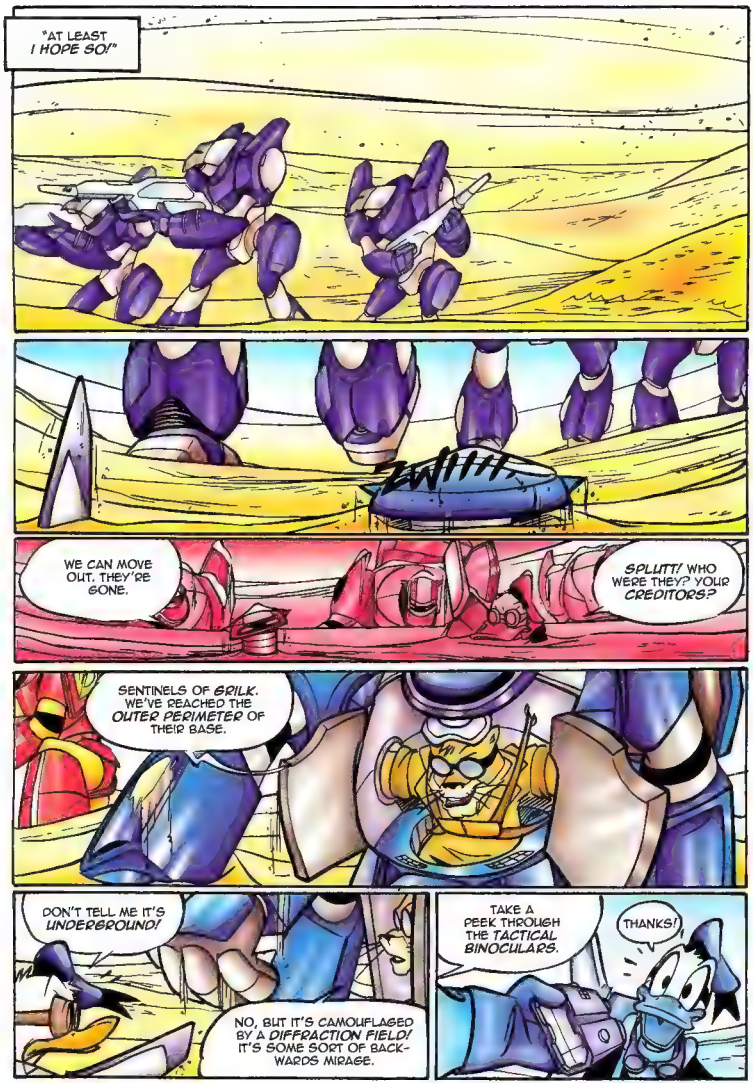

TOO BAD THAT THE ONLY THING ONBOARD THAT'S STILL FUNCTIONAL IS THE THING YOU WERE IN!
SOMEONE MUST HAVE REMOVED THE SYNTHETIC PERSONALITY AND THE SERVOMECHANISM THAT OPERATES THEM.
PERSONALITY? SERVOMECHANISM? WAIT A MINUTE!
YOU THINK THESE ARE ROBOTIC VEHICLES CAPABLE OF FIGHTING ON THEIR OWN?
OF COURSE! WHAT A QUESTION!
NOBODY IS SO FOOLISH AS TO GO TO WAR IN PERSON!
YEAH, SURE... NOB-ODY...
YOU AND YOUR GUYS, THEN?
ME AND MY WHAT?
TAP TAP TAP
UNLESS I... CHECK WITH THE SENSORS OF THE SHIELD.

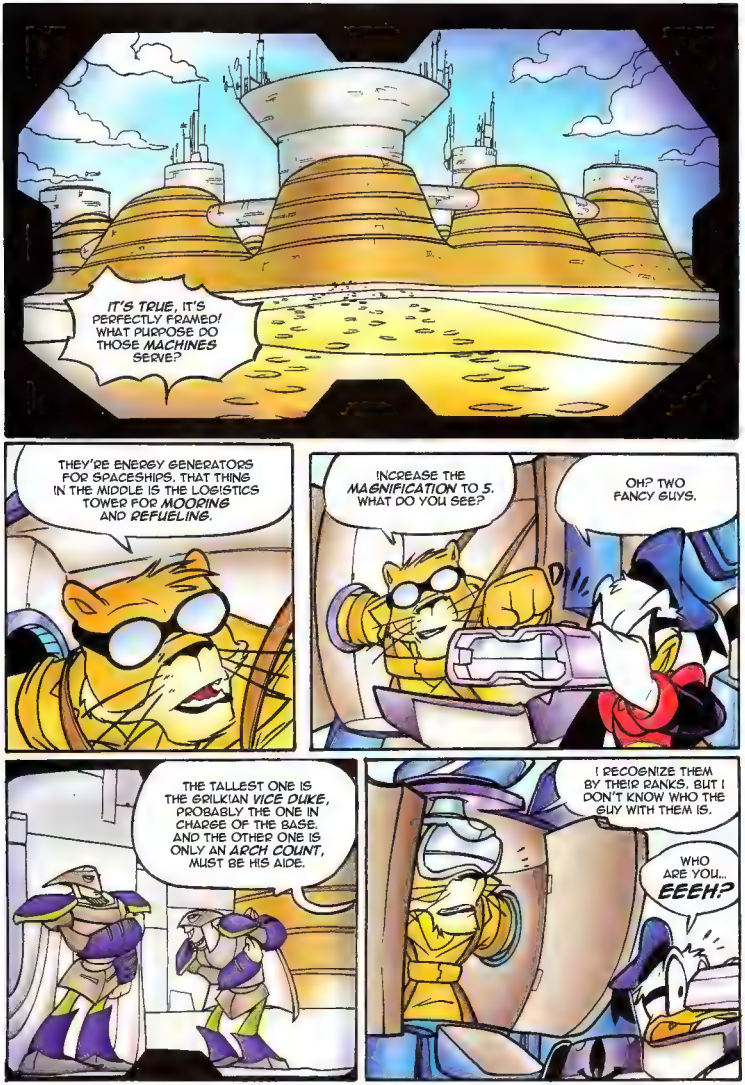
BIOLOGICAL LIFE FORMS PRESENT ON THIS SPACESHIP... DUCK AVENGER AND COLONEL NEOPARD.
OH? ONLY US TWO?
DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T NOTICE.
MY SOLDIERS ARE ALL AUTOMATONS, INCLUDING SERGEANT Q'WYN-KENNON!
WHITT UUR YUE CAHYIN'? *
* "WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?"
NO OFFENSE, OLD CHAP. Q'WYN IS IN FACT NOT A ROBOT, BUT A TRUE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.
PAT PAT
"MODEL MARK 8, STALE, BUT EFFICIENT. WE'VE GONE THROUGH SO MUCH TOGETHER!"
THIS TROOP INSTEAD IS COMPOSED OF MARK 9 SERVO-FIGHTERS. IRREDUCIBLE, BUT INCAPABLE OF INDEPENDENT DECISIONS.

IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT SOMEONE FOLLOWS THEM ON THE FIELD TO LEAD THEM.
YOU'RE THEIR COMMANDER?
YEAH. DESPITE THE PROGRESS, A GOOD MERCENARY IS STILL AN ENTREPRENEUR WHO PUTS HIMSELF AT RISK... IT'S EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER, BECAUSE WHILE LOOKING FOR RECYCLABLE WRECKS I'VE FOUND SOMETHING MUCH BETTER!
W-W-WHAT?
NOT WHAT, BUT WHO! EVER SINCE OUR FIRST MEETING YOU HAVE PROVEN TO BE A FORMIDABLE WARRIOR!
DON'T EXAGGERATE! I WAS MAKING A SCENE!
I WANT TO HIRE YOU FOR THE MISSION AGAINST GRILK! THERE'S GOOD MONEY TO BE EARNED!
EEEH? DON'T EVEN THINK THAT!
YOU THINK ABOUT IT INSTEAD! THE LIFE OF A SPACE MERCENARY IS EXCITING AND FUN.


OUR MOTTO IS "GO TO THE COSMOS, DISCOVER NEW, FASCINATING CIVILIZATIONS AND... DESTROY THEM!" HA HA!
HA HA! CYSSSSA!
WHAT A JOKE. FORGET IT, NEOPARD.
THIS IS NOT MY THING! I'M A PACIFIC GUY, I JUST WANT TO GET BACK TO MY PLANET... OR AT LEAST MY UNIVERSE!
NOTHING ELSE? HAVE YOU TAKEN "LADY ELENTHARI" FOR A TAXI!?
I HAVE NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE DESIRE TO TAKE YOU BACK. NOT TO MENTION THE PRICE OF FUEL!
BESIDES, WE ARE ALREADY LANDING ON THE DESERT WHERE THE GOLKIAN BASE IS BEING CONSTRUCTED.
WHAT? NO!
FFFTTSSHHOOO


I SAY! TODAY MUST THE DAY OF SCAMS!
BUT ONE THING'S CLEAR... YOU'LL BRING ME BACK HOME AS SOON AS THE MISSION IS COMPLETED!
I PROMISED, DIDN'T I?
SO QUIT THAT MUMBLING, RECRUIT!
RECRUIT?
IT'S BETTER THAN ALIEN, BUT MY NAME IS THE DUCK AVENGER!
VERY PLEASED! NOW... BE SILENT AND ENJOY THE RIDE!
IT'S A PERFECT DAY FOR AN INCURSION. I BET THE ENEMY CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE THAT WE'VE LOCATED THEM.


"AT LEAST I HOPE SO!"
WHIIII.
WE CAN MOVE OUT. THEY'RE GONE.
SPLUTT! WHO WERE THEY? YOUR CREDITORS?
SENTINELS OF BRILK. WE'VE REACHED THE OUTER PERIMETER OF THEIR BASE.
DON'T TELL ME IT'S UNDERGROUND!
NO, BUT IT'S CAMOUFLAGED BY A DIFFRACTION FIELD! IT'S SOME SORT OF BACK-WARDS MIRAGE.
TAKE A PEEK THROUGH THE TACTICAL BINOCULARS.
THANKS!

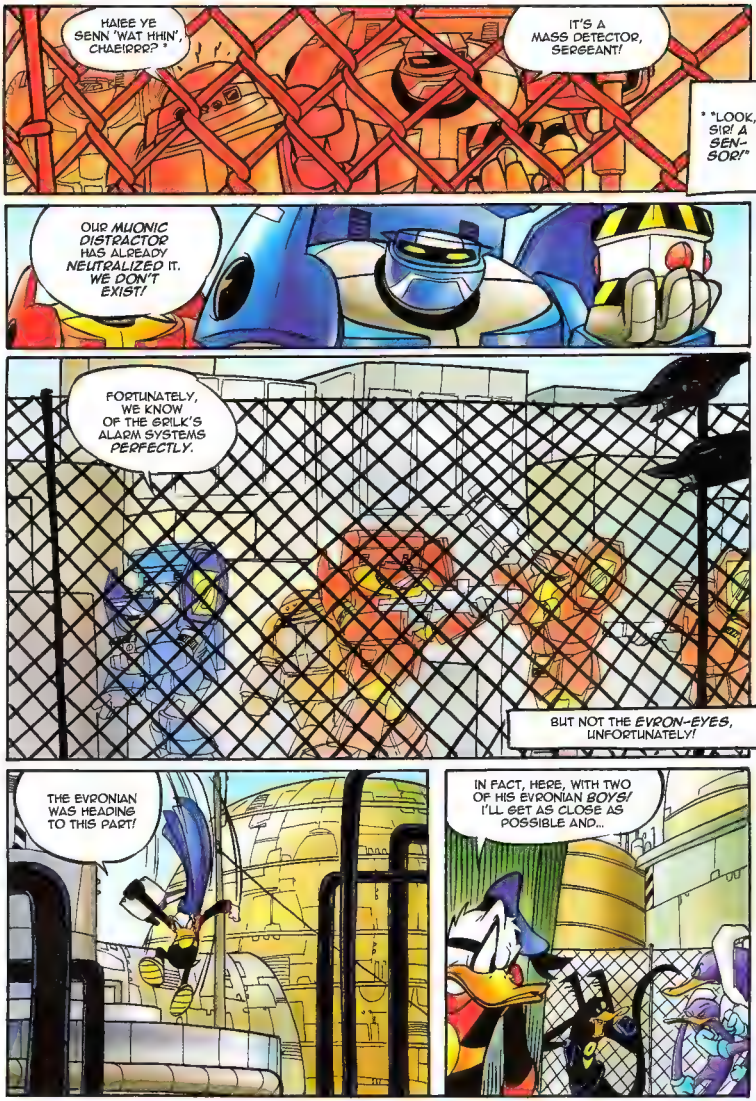

IT'S TRUE, IT'S PERFECTLY FRAMED! WHAT PURPOSE DO THOSE MACHINES SERVE?
THEY'RE ENERGY GENERATORS FOR SPACESHIPS. THAT THING IN THE MIDDLE IS THE LOGISTICS TOWER FOR MOORING AND REFUELING.
INCREASE THE MAGNIFICATION TO 5. WHAT DO YOU SEE?
OH? TWO FANCY GUYS.
THE TALLEST ONE IS THE GRILKIAN VICE DUKE, PROBABLY THE ONE IN CHARGE OF THE BASE. AND THE OTHER ONE IS ONLY AN ARCH COUNT, MUST BE HIS AIDE.
I RECOGNIZE THEM BY THEIR RANKS. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHO THE GUY WITH THEM IS.
WHO ARE YOU... EEEH?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! AN EVRONIAN OFFICER!
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT I'D FIND THEM IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE?
HI HI! IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET ACQUAINTANCES WHEN YOU'RE TRAVELLING, RIGHT?
IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING. THE BINOCULAR'S EQUIPPED WITH A DIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE.
OH, GOOD!
THE INSTALLATION WILL BE OPERATIONAL WITHIN 26 HOURS, YOUR GRACE!
THE SIXTH SPACESHIP SQUAD IS ALREADY HEADING HERE FOR REFUELING.
AND THE NATIVES ARE COMPLETELY IGNORANT TO THE EXISTENCE OF OUR BASE. TRULY SATISFYING.
I TOLD YOU, RIGHT?
WE EVRONIANS ARE FAMILIAR WITH THIS PLANET! WE WERE HERE LONG BEFORE YOU!

WE COULD HAVE ENFORCED OUR PREEMPTION RIGHTS!
INSTEAD, WE GENEROUSLY OFFERED YOU OUR SERVICES AS MILITARY ADVISORS!
YOU NEVER FAIL TO REMIND US OF THAT, SUPERVISOR VRAAKON!
"MILITARY ADVISORS", EH? IF THAT FACILITY PRODUCES ENERGY, THEY WILL DEMAND A GOOD PORTION OF IT AS PAYMENT FOR THEIR SERVICES.
BUT EVEN IF IT'S SO FAR AWAY FROM DUCKBURG, WHEREVER EVRON WEAVES THEIR SINISTER PLOTS, THE DUCK AVENGER WILL BE READY TO THWART THEM!
SO THAT ONE IS YOUR ENEMY? EXCELLENT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HIS PRESENCE WILL MAKE YOU MORE MOTIVATED AND COMBATIVE!
BUT BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET INTO TROUBLE FROM TOO MUCH ENTHUSIASM! YOU'RE NEW TO THE JOB!

I ENTRUST HIM TO YOU, SERGEANT! KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!
YUE BIDEE CHLOUS TAIEE MIEE. *
I DON'T NEED A NANNY!
* "STAY CLOSE TO ME."
AS YOU WISH. BUT BE CAREFUL NOT TO FALL BEHIND AND DON'T GET CAPTURED!
CLONK
I'M NOT GOING TO PUT MY EXPENSIVE TROOPS IN DANGER IN ORDER TO RESCUE YOU!
FANTASTIC. IT'S A PLEASURE TO DISCOVER THE VALUE OF FRIENDSHIP.
GREEN LIGHT!
THE PATH TO THE TOWER IS CLEAR. LET'S GO!
WAIT!

FIRST I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT VRAAKON IS PLOTTING!
THAT'S IRRELEVANT TO THE MISSION, RECRUIT!
OUR OBJECTIVE IS THE LOGISTICS TOWER!
IF IT'S LIKE THAT, THEN I QUIT!
MY OBJECTIVE IS EVRON! YOU CAN KEEP YOUR GRILKIANS WITH ALL THOSE GRAND DUKES!
WE ARE WASTING TIME. DO YOU WANT TO TRACE HIM?
YUE DOTON' MOAW. *
* "DON'T MOVE, SOLDIERS."
VERY WELL! IF YOU WANT TO, YOU CAN GO ON PATROL BY YOURSELF!
TRY TO MOVE FAST! WE'LL REGROUP AT THE TARGET!
GOT IT! DON'T START THE SHOW WITHOUT ME AND... WATCH OUT FOR EVRONIANS! THEY ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN THEY LOOK!

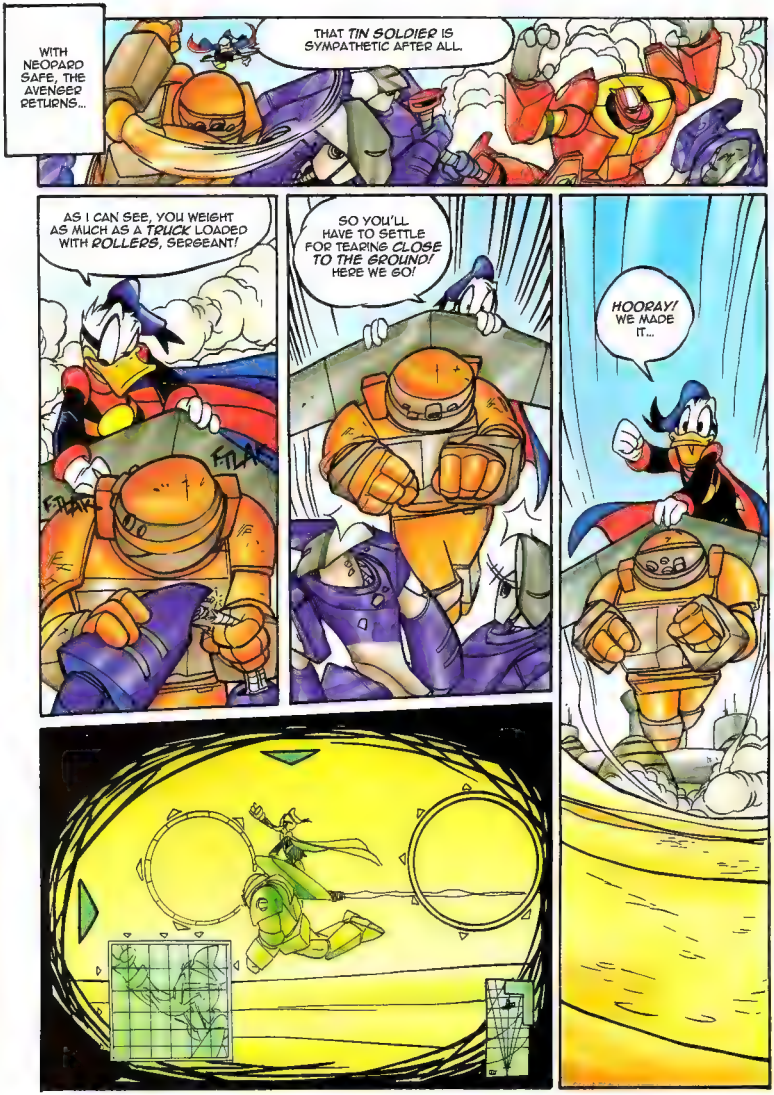

HAIEE YE SENN 'WAT HHIN', CHAEIRRR? *
IT'S A MASS DETECTOR, SERGEANT!
* "LOOK, SIR! A SEN-SOR!"
OUR MUONIC DISTRACTOR HAS ALREADY NEUTRALIZED IT. WE DON'T EXIST!
FORTUNATELY, WE KNOW OF THE GRILK'S ALARM SYSTEMS PERFECTLY.
BUT NOT THE EVRON-EYES, UNFORTUNATELY!
THE EVRONIAN WAS HEADING TO THIS PART!
IN FACT, HERE, WITH TWO OF HIS EVRONIAN BOYS! I'LL GET AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE AND...

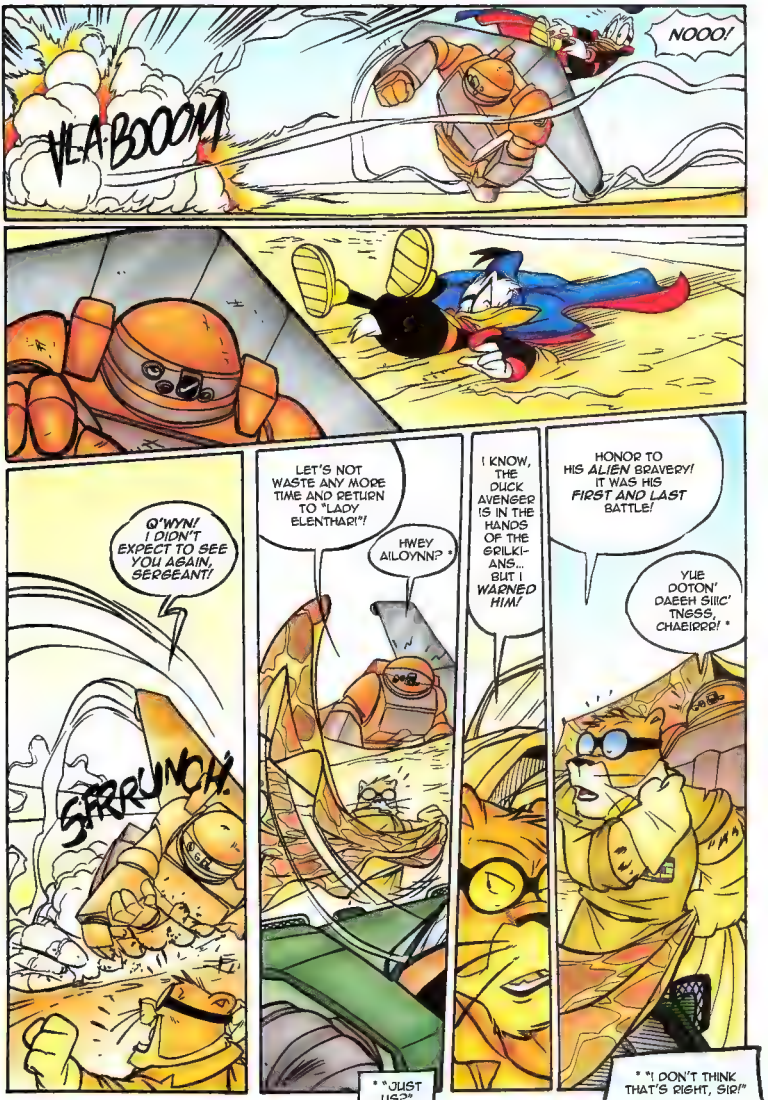
VRRAT-TA-TAT BARODUM ZZZRAAAK
HUH?
KABLAM
VRAT-TAT-TAT-TAT
MERCENARIES! YOU CAN'T TURN AWAY FROM THEM FOR ONE SECOND WITHOUT THEM IMMEDIATELY STARTING TO SHOOT!
GRABOOOM WRAAAANG
HWEY WAUR CAHETT JIST TH' SAM, CHAEIRR! * GRABBAGA PLUTZ!
VRAT-TAT-TAT
WRECZZ
ZZ-TRAAAP
* "WE WERE DISCOVERED ALL THE SAME, SIR!"

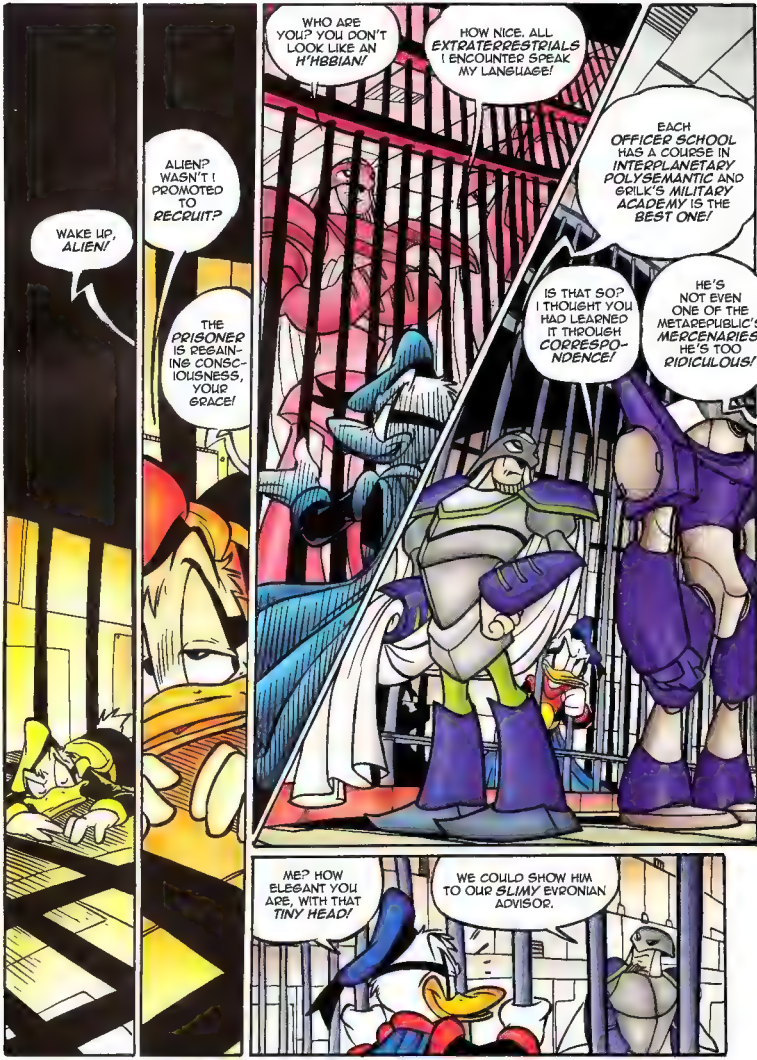
EVEN THOUGH WE WERE SHIELDED FROM ANY...
ZZZ
... PLUTZ!
ZZZZZZ
IT WAS THESE FLYING THINGS WHO LOCATED US!
TZAK
VRAT-TAT-TAT
K-POW
B-LAM
I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE! THEY MUST BELONG TO THE SRILKIANS' ALLIES!
EE TAJULO UOHS NNAE TAIEE TROHST TEMM! *
* "THE ALIEN WARNED US."
THAT'S TRUE! OUR RECRUIT WAS RIGHT!
I HOPE HE AT LEAST MANAGED TO GET AWAY! THIS IS HIS FIRST MISSION AND NOT...
SPRAAANGHT

I'M OFFENDED!
YOU PROMISED YOU'D WAIT FOR ME!
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN... NOW GET OUT OF HERE!
WE ARE SURROUNDED! YOU BETTER TAKE OFF BEFORE THE GRILK INFANTRY SHOWS UP!
KA-BLOOM!
LEAVING MY DEAR COLONEL HERE? WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE!
MY SHIELD IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO...
EH?
UUU-RGH!
WEEEOOOOOO
... NEVER MIND! IT'S NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH!
CLONG
PLUTZ!

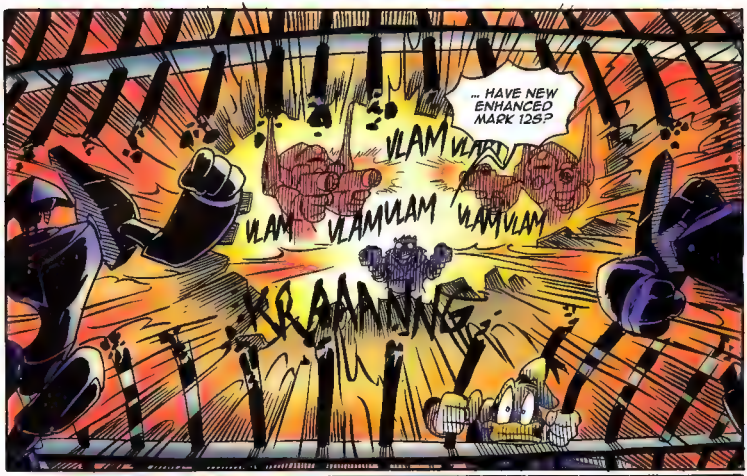
YOUR ARMOR IS TOO HEAVY. YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE IT!
WHAAAT? I'M LEASING THIS AND I HAVE NOT FINISHED...
AS YOU WISH. REMEMBER AS WELL TO TELL THE BRILKIANS NOT TO SPOIL YOUR NICE OUTFIT!
THIS INCURSION WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ALL GAIN AND NOW IT'S COSTING ME A SUM.
THAT'S BETTER! FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT AND DON'T MAKE GRIMACES AT THE ENEMY!
I'VE LOST A TACTICAL ARMOR AND A PLATOON OF MARK 9 SOLDIERS...
... NOT TO MENTION MY IRREPLACEABLE SERGEANT Q'WYNKENNON!
HONOR TO HIS SYNTHETIC COURAGE! IT WAS HIS LAST BATTLE!
HOLD ON BEFORE YOU SPEAK!


WITH NEOPARO SAFE, THE AVENGER RETURNS...
THAT TIN SOLDIER IS SYMPATHETIC AFTER ALL.
AS I CAN SEE, YOU WEIGHT AS MUCH AS A TRUCK LOADED WITH ROLLERS, SERGEANT!
FTLA
FTLAR
SO YOU'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR TEARING CLOSE TO THE GROUND! HERE WE GO!
HOORAY! WE MADE IT...


NOOO!
VLA-BOOOM!
Q'WYN! I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SERGEANT!
SKRUNCH!
LET'S NOT WASTE ANY MORE TIME AND RETURN TO "LADY ELENTHAR!"!
HWEY AILOYNN? *
I KNOW, THE DUCK AVENGER IS IN THE HANDS OF THE GRILKI-ANS... BUT I WARNED HIM!
HONOR TO HIS ALIEN BRAVERY! IT WAS HIS FIRST AND LAST BATTLE!
YUE DOTON' DAEEH SIIIC' TNESS, CHAEIRRR! *
* "JUST US?"
* "I DON'T THINK THAT'S RIGHT, SIR!"

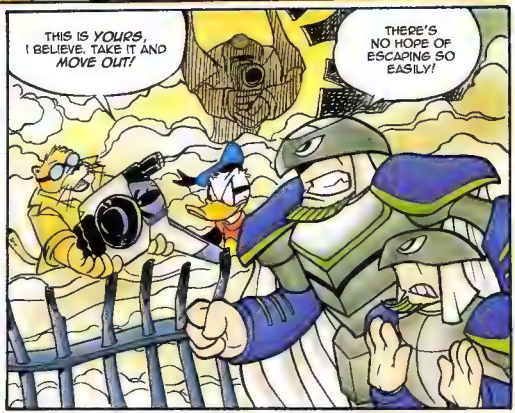

WAKE UP, ALIEN!
ALIEN? WASN'T I PROMOTED TO RECRUIT?
THE PRISONER IS REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS, YOUR GRACE!
WHO ARE YOU? YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE AN H'HBBIAN!
HOW NICE. ALL EXTRATERRESTRIALS I ENCOUNTER SPEAK MY LANGUAGE!
EACH OFFICER SCHOOL HAS A COURSE IN INTERPLANETARY POLYSEMANTIC AND GRILK'S MILITARY ACADEMY IS THE BEST ONE!
IS THAT SO? I THOUGHT YOU HAD LEARNED IT THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE!
HE'S NOT EVEN ONE OF THE METAREPUBLIC'S MERCENARIES. HE'S TOO RIDICULOUS!
ME? HOW ELEGANT YOU ARE, WITH THAT TINY HEAD!
WE COULD SHOW HIM TO OUR SLIMY EVRONIAN ADVISOR.

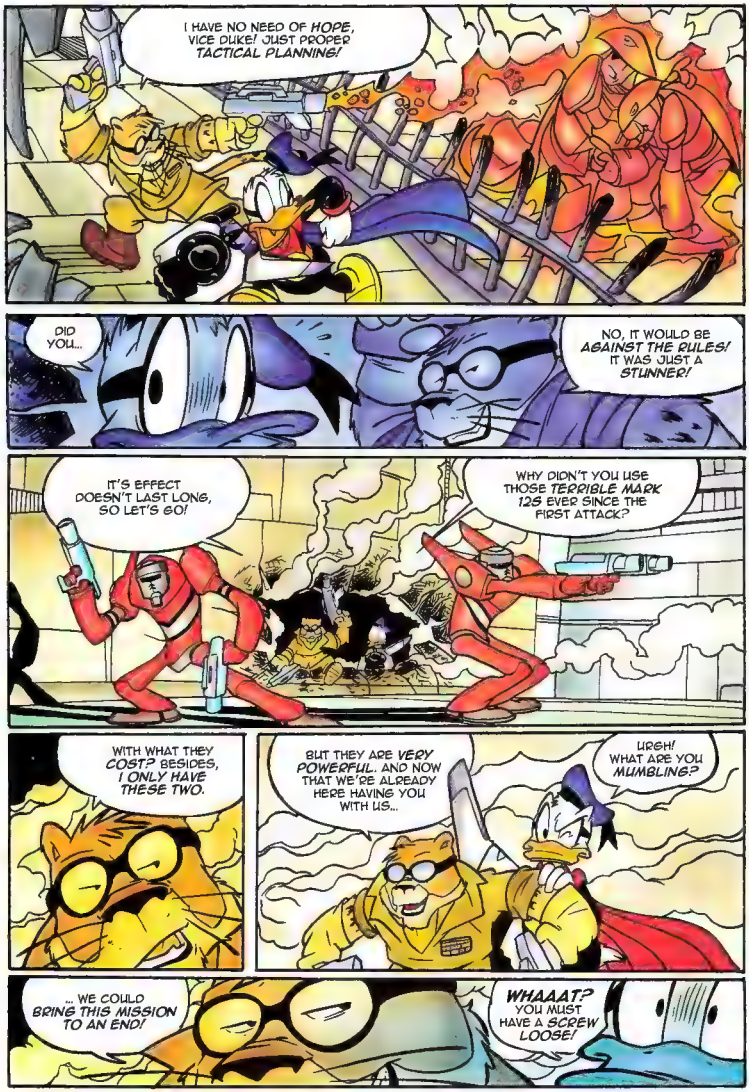
DON'T EVEN TRY! I'M ALLERGIC TO THE EVRONIANS!
ACTUALLY, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU IF YOU LET ME GO...
... BEFORE MY COMPANIONS RETURN IN FORCES TO RESCUE ME!
HA HA! YOU DON'T SAY!
HE HE! WE ARE TERRI-FIED!
I DOUBT THEY WILL TRY TO SAVE YOU, COMICAL ALIEN!
BUT IF THEY DID, THERE WOULD BE LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS, WITH THOSE OLD MARK 9 AUTOMATONS! THEY NEED TO AT LEAST...

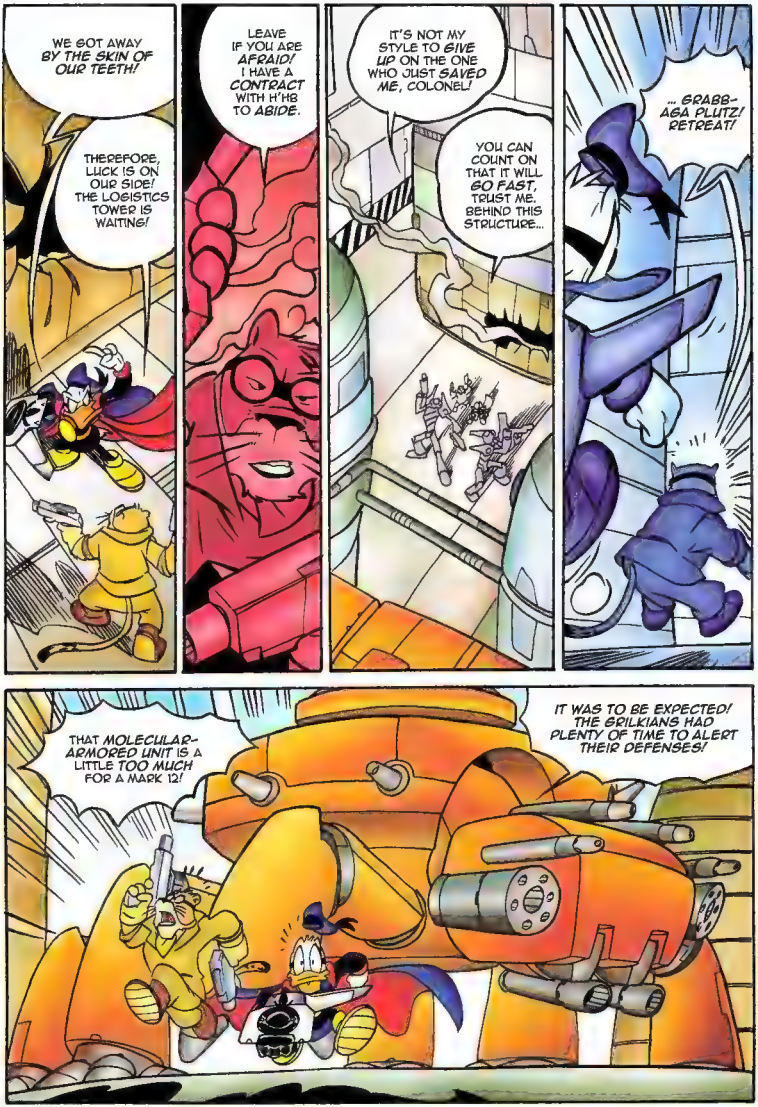

... HAVE NEW ENHANCED MARK 12S?
VLAM VLAM
VLAM VLAMVLAM VLAMVLAM
KRAAANNG

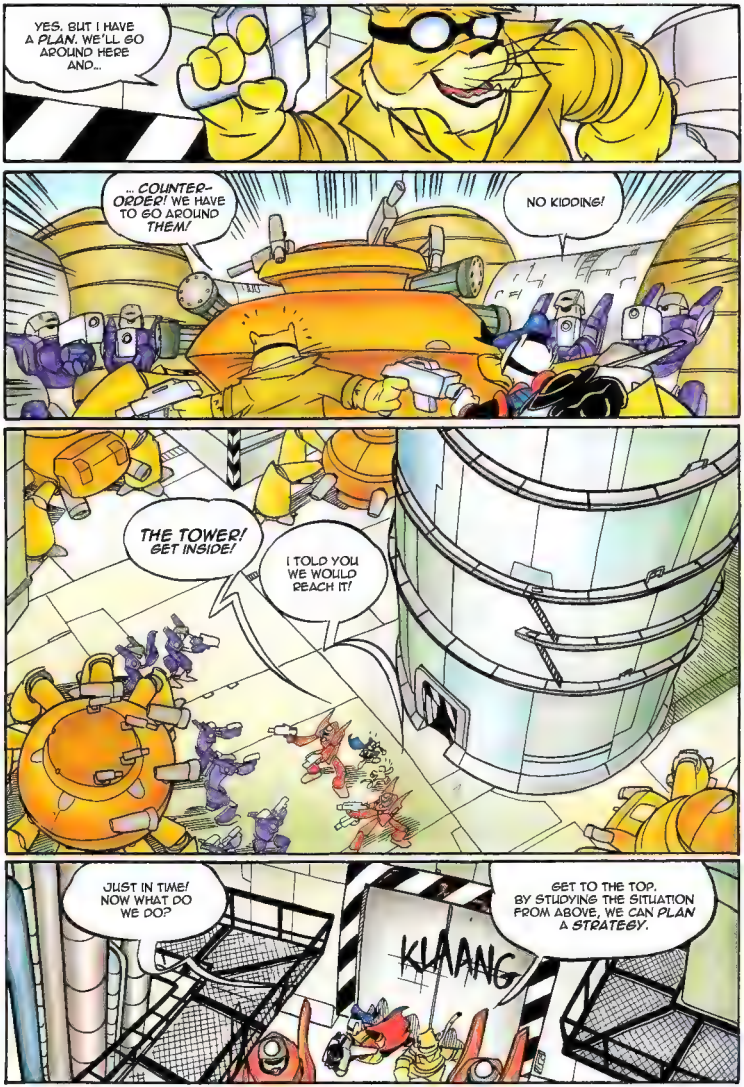
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU WOULD LEAVE ME HERE?
I CHANGED MY MIND. THE SERGEANT SENDS HIS REGARDS.

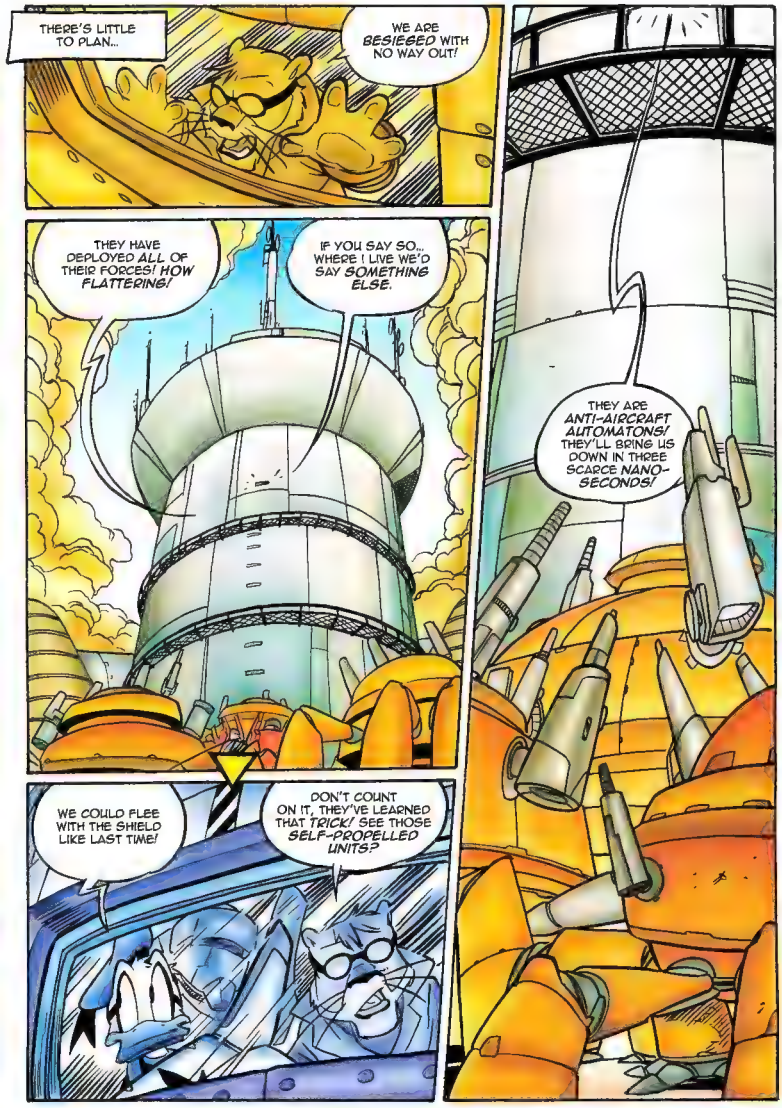
HE WANTED TO RETURN THE FAVOR BY PARTICIPATING IN YOUR RESCUE, BUT HE HAS A DAMAGED ARM.

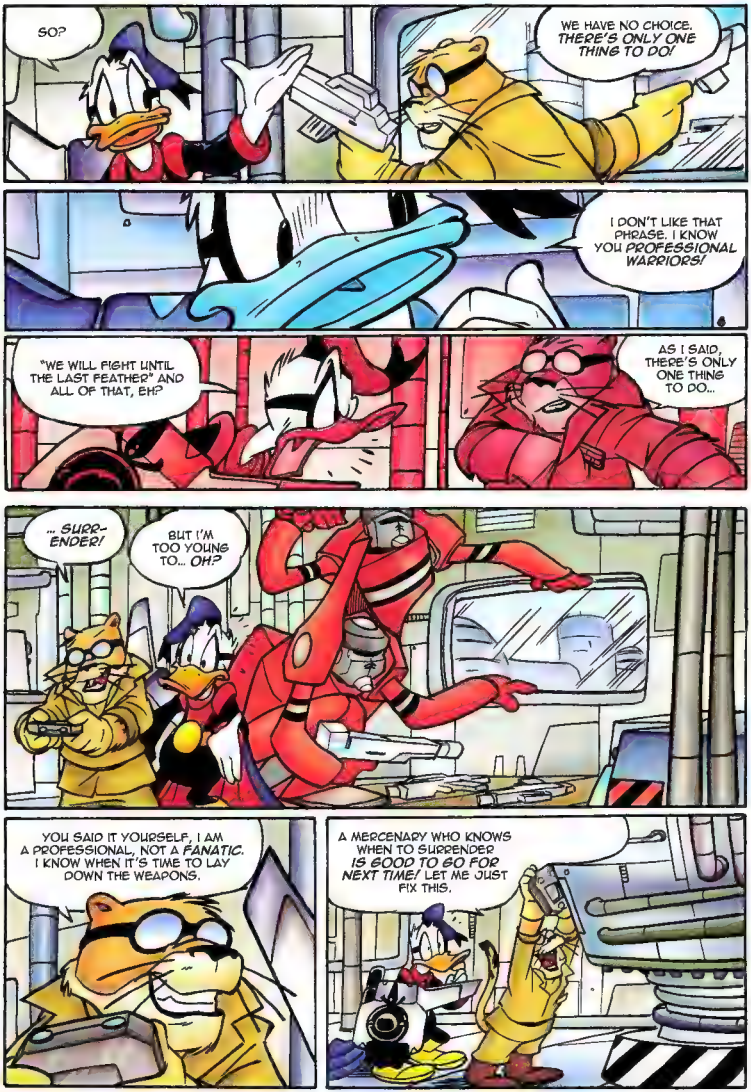

THIS IS YOURS, I BELIEVE. TAKE IT AND MOVE OUT!
THERE'S NO HOPE OF ESCAPING SO EASILY!

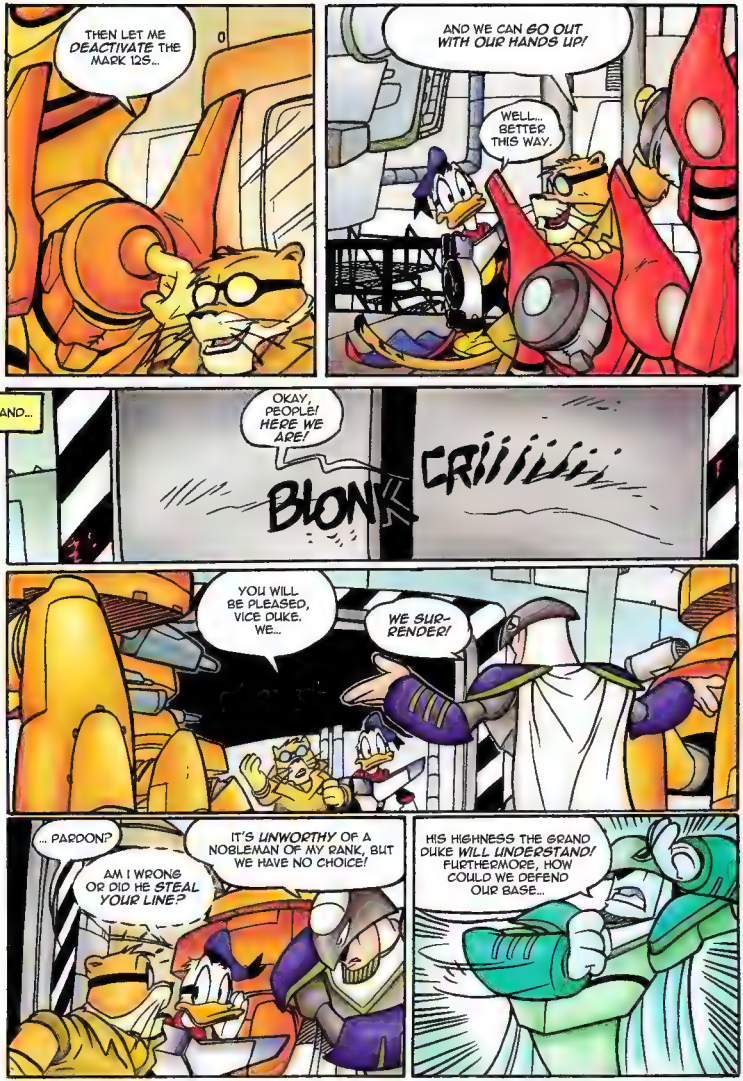

I HAVE NO NEED OF HOPE, VICE DUKE! JUST PROPER TACTICAL PLANNING!
DID YOU...
NO, IT WOULD BE AGAINST THE RULES! IT WAS JUST A STUNNER!
IT'S EFFECT DOESN'T LAST LONG, SO LET'S GO!
WHY DIDN'T YOU USE THOSE TERRIBLE MARK 12S EVER SINCE THE FIRST ATTACK?
WITH WHAT THEY COST? BESIDES, I ONLY HAVE THESE TWO.
BUT THEY ARE VERY POWERFUL. AND NOW THAT WE'RE ALREADY HERE HAVING YOU WITH US...
URGH! WHAT ARE YOU MUMBLING?
... WE COULD BRING THIS MISSION TO AN END!
WHAAAT? YOU MUST HAVE A SCREW LOOSE!


WE GOT AWAY BY THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH!
THEREFORE, LUCK IS ON OUR SIDE! THE LOGISTICS TOWER IS WAITING!
LEAVE IF YOU ARE AFRAID! I HAVE A CONTRACT WITH H'HB TO ABIDE.
IT'S NOT MY STYLE TO GIVE UP ON THE ONE WHO JUST SAVED ME, COLONEL!
YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT IT WILL GO FAST, TRUST ME. BEHIND THIS STRUCTURE...
... GRABB-AGA PLUTZ! RETREAT!
THAT MOLECULAR-ARMORED UNIT IS A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR A MARK 12!
IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED! THE GRILKIANS HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO ALERT THEIR DEFENSES!

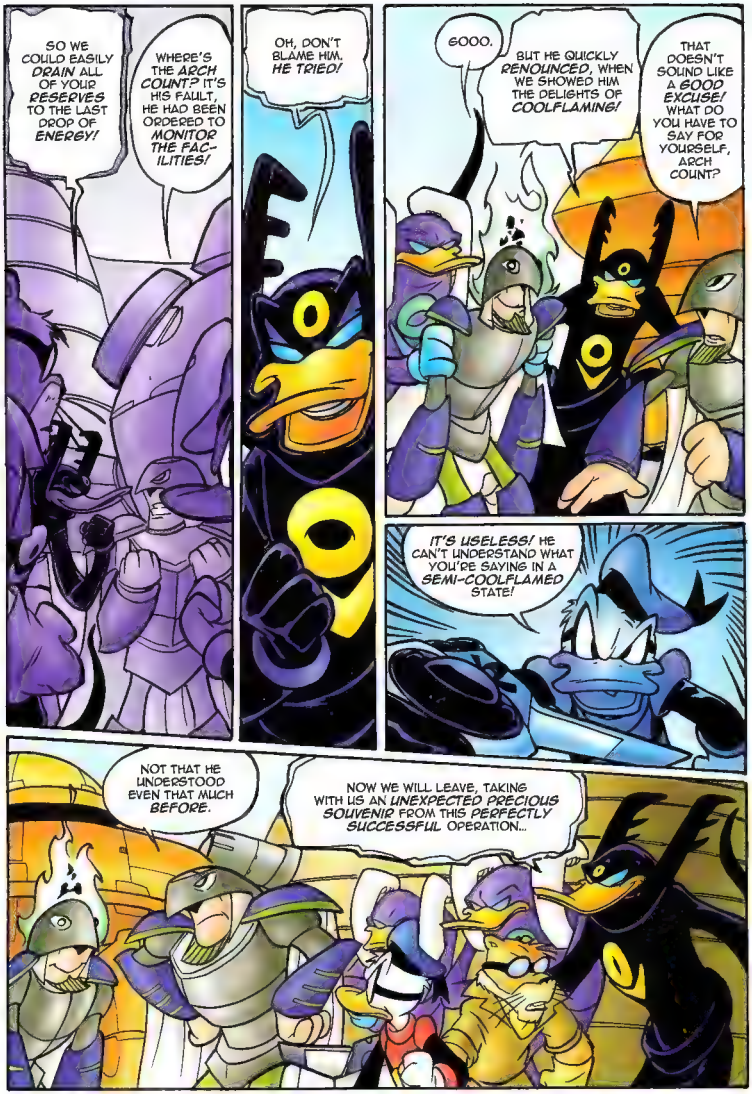

YES, BUT I HAVE A *PLAN*. WE'LL GO AROUND HERE AND...
... *COUNTER-ORDER!* WE HAVE TO GO AROUND *THEM!*
NO KIDDING!
THE TOWER! GET INSIDE!
I TOLD YOU WE WOULD REACH IT!
JUST IN TIME! NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
KLAANG
GET TO THE TOP. BY STUDYING THE SITUATION FROM ABOVE, WE CAN *PLAN* A *STRATEGY*.


THERE'S LITTLE TO PLAN...
WE ARE BESIEGED WITH NO WAY OUT!
THEY HAVE DEPLOYED ALL OF THEIR FORCES! HOW FLATTERING!
IF YOU SAY SO... WHERE I LIVE WE'D SAY SOMETHING ELSE.
THEY ARE ANTI-AIRCRAFT AUTOMATONS! THEY'LL BRING US DOWN IN THREE SCARCE NANO-SECONDS!
WE COULD FLEE WITH THE SHIELD LIKE LAST TIME!
DON'T COUNT ON IT, THEY'VE LEARNED THAT TRICK! SEE THOSE SELF-PROPELLED UNITS?


SO?
WE HAVE NO CHOICE. THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO!
I DON'T LIKE THAT PHRASE. I KNOW YOU PROFESSIONAL WARRIORS!
"WE WILL FIGHT UNTIL THE LAST FEATHER" AND ALL OF THAT, EH?
AS I SAID, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
... SURR-ENDER!
BUT I'M TOO YOUNG TO... OH?
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, I AM A PROFESSIONAL, NOT A FANATIC. I KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO LAY DOWN THE WEAPONS.
A MERCENARY WHO KNOWS WHEN TO SURRENDER IS GOOD TO GO FOR NEXT TIME! LET ME JUST FIX THIS.

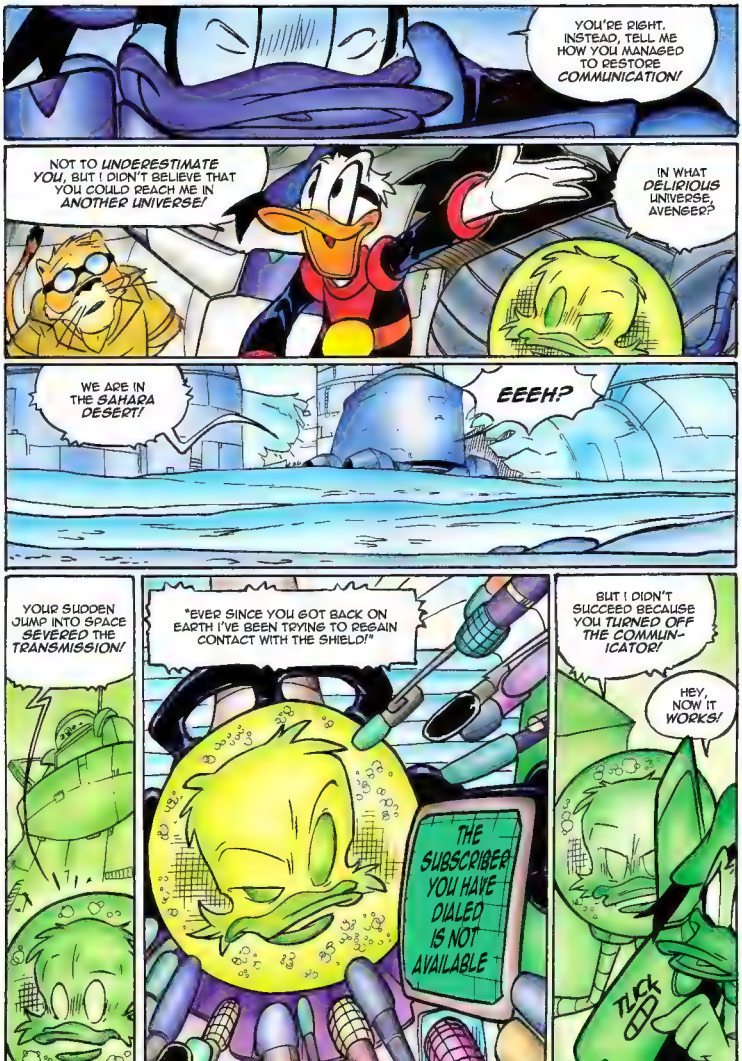

THEN LET ME DEACTIVATE THE MARK 12S...
AND WE CAN GO OUT WITH OUR HANDS UP!
WELL... BETTER THIS WAY.
AND...
OKAY, PEOPLE! HERE WE ARE!
BLONK
CRIIIIIIII
YOU WILL BE PLEASED, VICE DUKE. WE...
WE SUR-RENDER!
... PARDON?
AM I WRONG OR DID HE STEAL YOUR LINE?
IT'S UNWORTHY OF A NOBLEMAN OF MY RANK, BUT WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
HIS HIGHNESS THE GRAND DUKE WILL UNDERSTAND! FURTHERMORE, HOW COULD WE DEFEND OUR BASE...

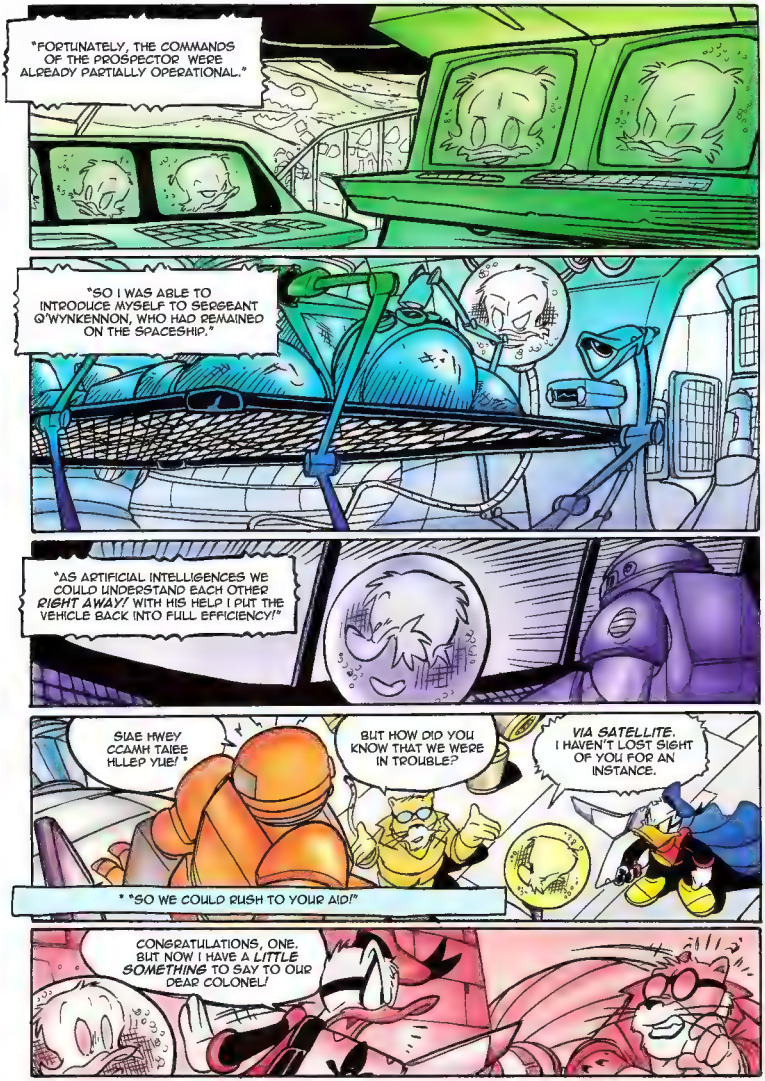
... WHEN YOU HAVE VILELY STOLEN THE ENERGY OF ALL OF OUR TROOPS?
NO MORE ENERGY, EH? CONGRATULATIONS, RECRUIT, HOWEVER YOU DID IT...
NICE ONE, COLONEL! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU...
YOU MEAN THAT IT WASN'T YOU?
ME? I THOUGHT IT WAS ONE OF YOUR STRATAGEMS!
I'M SORRY TO RUIN THIS BEAUTIFUL MOMENT BETWEEN COMRADES IN ARMS...
... BUT IT WAS WE!
BINGO! THE EVRONIANS!
CYSSSSA!
FOR WHAT REASON, SUPERVISOR VRAAKON? YOU'RE HERE AS A MILITARY ADVISOR...
LET'S STOP THIS ADVISOR CHARADE, VICE DUKE! IF YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET, WE HAVE BEEN TRICKING YOU FROM THE BEGINNING!
IT'S BEEN VERY USEFUL TO CLOSELY STUDY YOUR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY!
HOW LOW!

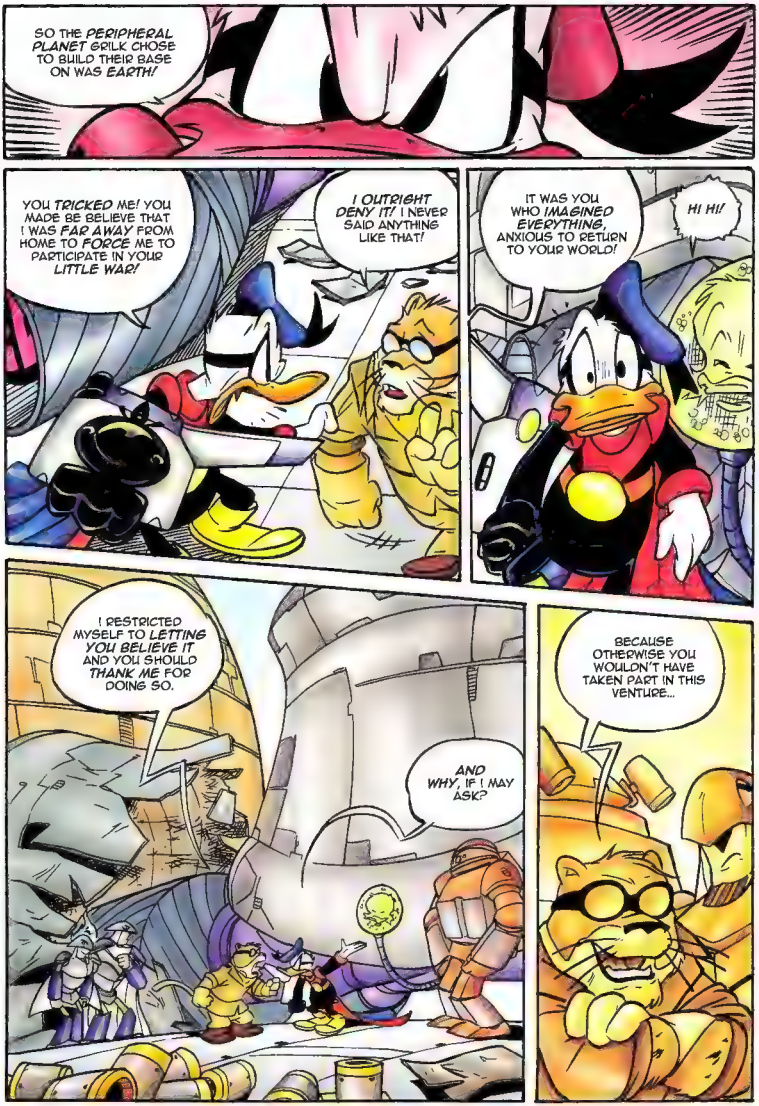

SO WE COULD EASILY *DRAIN* ALL OF YOUR *RESERVES* TO THE LAST DROP OF *ENERGY!*
WHERE'S THE *ARCH COUNT?* IT'S HIS FAULT, HE HAD BEEN ORDERED TO *MONITOR THE FACILITIES!*
OH, DON'T BLAME HIM. *HE TRIED!*
GOOO.
BUT HE QUICKLY *RENOUNCED*, WHEN WE SHOWED HIM THE DELIGHTS OF *COOLFLAMING!*
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A *GOOD EXCUSE!* WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, ARCH COUNT?
IT'S USELESS! HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IN A *SEMI-COOLFLAMED* STATE!
NOT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD EVEN THAT MUCH *BEFORE.*
NOW WE WILL LEAVE, TAKING WITH US AN *UNEXPECTED PRECIOUS SOUVENIR* FROM THIS *PERFECTLY SUCCESSFUL* OPERATION...

... OUR HATED ENEMY DUCK AVENGER!
EH?! I DION'T THINK THAT EVRONIANS STATIONED IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE KNEW ABOUT ME!
DELUDED FOOLS! YOU BETTER RUN WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
HA HA! DO YOU STILL NOT UNDER-STAND THAT YOU HAVE LOST?
YOU AND YOUR BUDDY WERE GOING TO SURRENDER, DON'T DENY IT! YOU ARE ALMOST UNARMED!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT YIELDING AT THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT?
WITH THE EVRONIANS YOU NEVER THROW IN THE TOWEL, NEOPARD!
HOWEVER, I WASN'T THE ONE TALKING!
THAT VOICE SOUNDED LIKE...
ARGH! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
VRRROOOOOMBLEEE

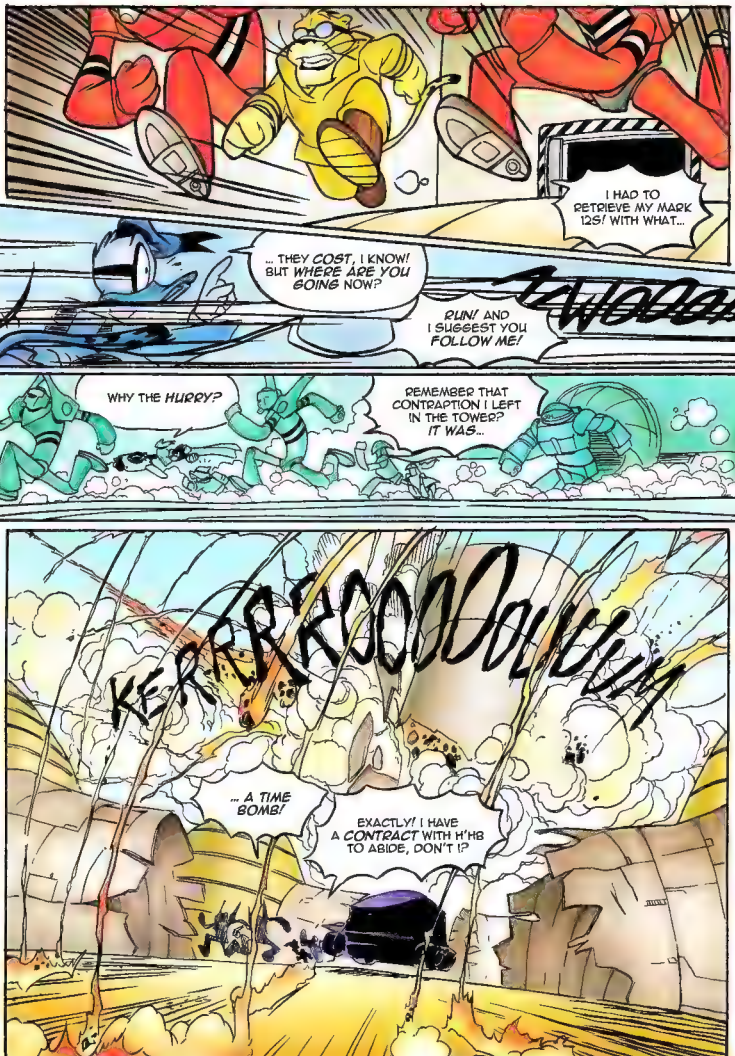
VRRROOOOOMMMBBLLEEEE
... ONE?
AM I LATE, PARTNER?
IT IS IN FACT GETTING LATE! WE WON'T DISTURB YOU!
EXCUSE ME, BUT I'VE FORGOTTEN THAT WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT MEETING... ON EVRON!
SHALL WE LET THEM GO, GOOD OLD MICROCHIP?
WAAANG
WHY WASTE AMMUNITION, MASKIE?
SO, IN A HURRY TO LEAVE, OUR LITTLE FRIENDS HAVE LEFT THE ACCUMULATORS WITH THE STOLEN ENERGY.


YOU'RE RIGHT. INSTEAD, TELL ME HOW YOU MANAGED TO RESTORE COMMUNICATION!
NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE YOU, BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU COULD REACH ME IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE!
IN WHAT DELIRIOUS UNIVERSE, AVENGER?
WE ARE IN THE SAHARA DESERT!
EEEH?
YOUR SUDDEN JUMP INTO SPACE SEVERED THE TRANSMISSION!
"EVER SINCE YOU GOT BACK ON EARTH I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REGAIN CONTACT WITH THE SHIELD!"
THE SUBSCRIBER YOU HAVE DIALED IS NOT AVAILABLE
BUT I DIDN'T SUCCEED BECAUSE YOU TURNED OFF THE COMMUNICATOR!
HEY, NOW IT WORKS!
TUCK

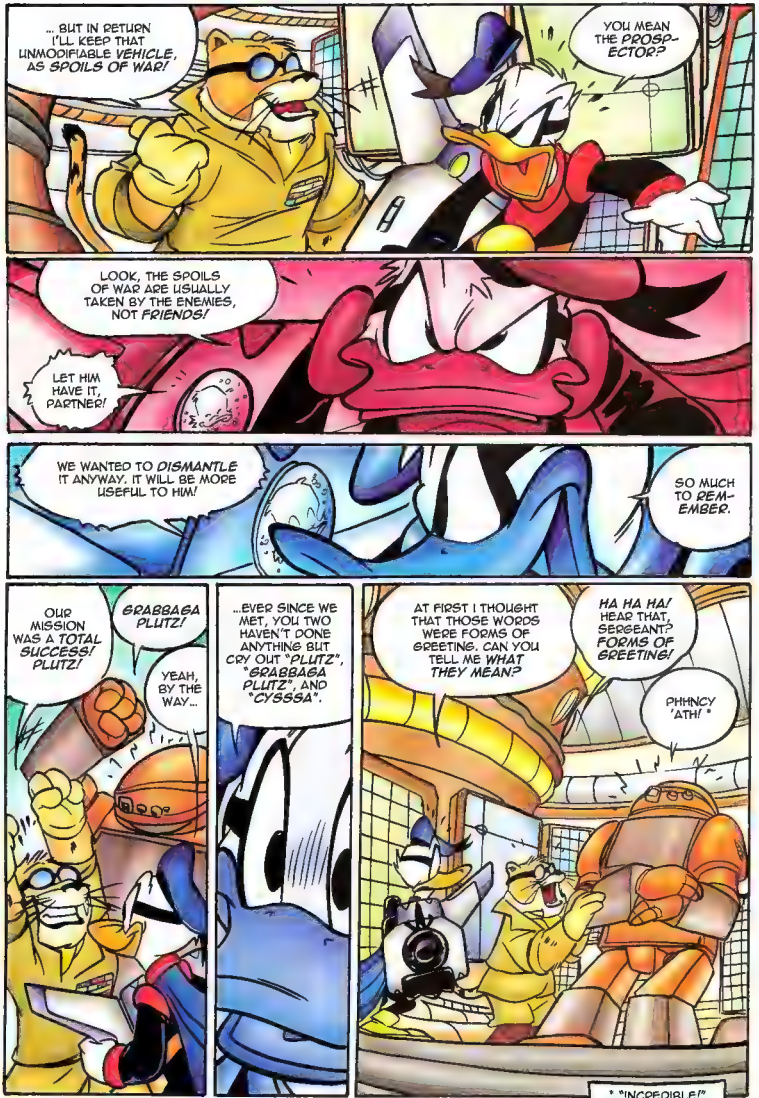

"FORTUNATELY, THE COMMANDS OF THE PROSPECTOR WERE ALREADY PARTIALLY OPERATIONAL."
"SO I WAS ABLE TO INTRODUCE MYSELF TO SERGEANT Q'WYNKENNON, WHO HAD REMAINED ON THE SPACESHIP."
"AS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCES WE COULD UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER *RIGHT AWAY!* WITH HIS HELP I PUT THE VEHICLE BACK INTO FULL EFFICIENCY!"
SIAE HWEY CCAMH TAIEE HLLEP YUE! *
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT WE WERE IN TROUBLE?
VIA SATELLITE. I HAVEN'T LOST SIGHT OF YOU FOR AN INSTANCE.
* "SO WE COULD RUSH TO YOUR AID!"
CONGRATULATIONS, ONE. BUT NOW I HAVE A *LITTLE SOMETHING* TO SAY TO OUR DEAR COLONEL!


SO THE PERIPHERAL PLANET GRILK CHOSE TO BUILD THEIR BASE ON WAS EARTH!
YOU TRICKED ME! YOU MADE BE BELIEVE THAT I WAS FAR AWAY FROM HOME TO FORCE ME TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR LITTLE WAR!
I OUTRIGHT DENY IT! I NEVER SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
IT WAS YOU WHO IMAGINED EVERYTHING, ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO YOUR WORLD!
HI HI!
I RESTRICTED MYSELF TO LETTING YOU BELIEVE IT AND YOU SHOULD THANK ME FOR DOING SO.
AND WHY, IF I MAY ASK?
BECAUSE OTHERWISE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN PART IN THIS VENTURE...

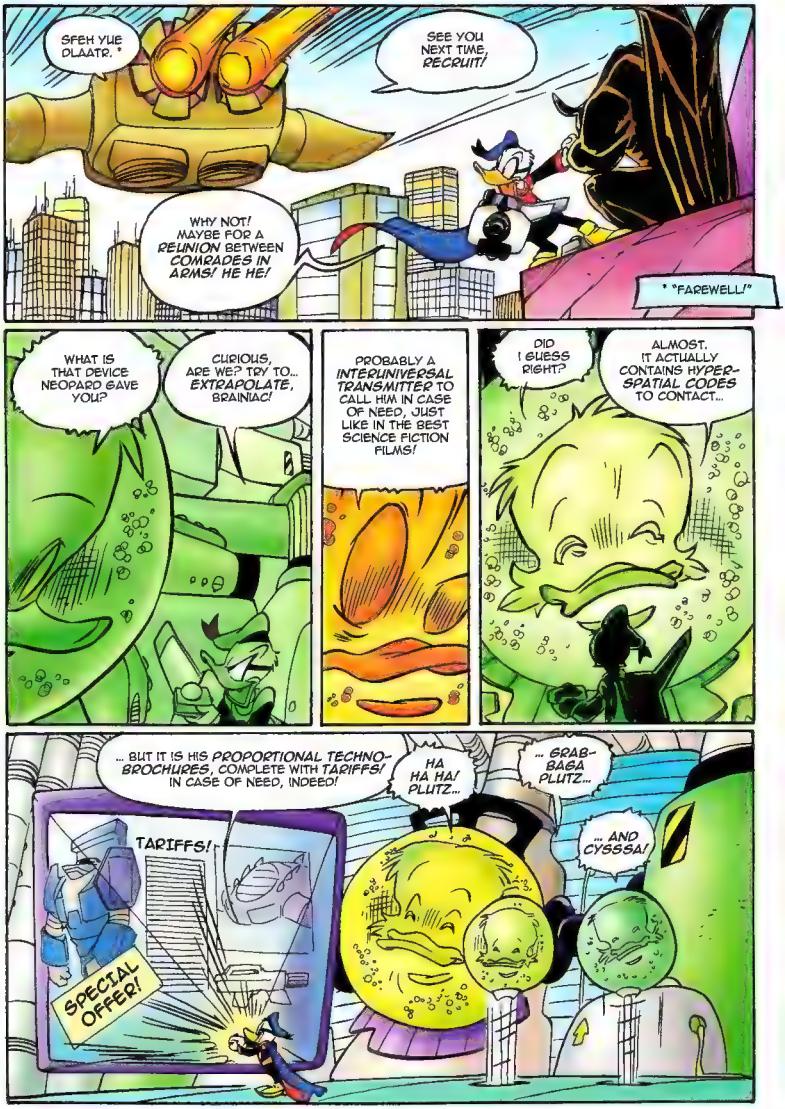
... INSTEAD YOU GOT PERSONALLY CONCERNED, SINCE YOUR ENEMIES WERE INVOLVED, THUS ALLYING YOURSELF WITH ME, AS FAKE AS IT WAS.
OKAY THEN, I'M SRRR... ATEFUL!
AND SPEAKING OF THE GRILKIANS...
ARE YOU STILL WILLING TO DECLARE YOURSELF BEATEN AND GIVE UP YOUR INSTALLATION, VICE DUKE?
OBVIOUSLY.
I CAN'T WAIT TO LEAVE THIS UNIVERSE WHERE OUR CHIVALROUS FEUD WITH H'HG IS VULGARIZED BY THE INTERFERENCE OF CERTAIN COMMONERS!
SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT IT WAS A PRIVATE WAR!
VERY GOOD. IN THAT CASE...
... JUST WAIT A SECOND! THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO!
?


I HAD TO RETRIEVE MY MARK 12s! WITH WHAT...
... THEY COST, I KNOW! BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING NOW?
RUN! AND I SUGGEST YOU FOLLOW ME!
WHY THE HURRY?
REMEMBER THAT CONTRAPTION I LEFT IN THE TOWER? IT WAS...
KERRRRROOOOOLLLLLL
... A TIME BOMB!
EXACTLY! I HAVE A CONTRACT WITH H'HB TO ABIDE, DON'T I?

AND SO...
THE GRAND DUKE WILL NOT BE HAPPY!
HE'LL AT THE VERY LEAST DEGRADE A NOBLE GENERAL OF FOURTH RANK.
AS FOR YOU, ARCH COUNT... I ENVY YOU!
GUK?
AT LEAST YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR FAILURE!
GEEE!
BUT WHILE GRILK CRIES, A CERTAIN MERCENARY... GIGGLES!
I'M SATISFIED! SURE, I HAVE LOST SOME MARK 9S...


... BUT IN RETURN I'LL KEEP THAT UNMOOIFIABLE VEHICLE, AS SPOILS OF WAR!
YOU MEAN THE PROSPECTOR?
LOOK, THE SPOILS OF WAR ARE USUALLY TAKEN BY THE ENEMIES, NOT FRIENDS!
LET HIM HAVE IT, PARTNER!
WE WANTED TO DISMANTLE IT ANYWAY. IT WILL BE MORE USEFUL TO HIM!
SO MUCH TO REMEMBER.
OUR MISSION WAS A TOTAL SUCCESS! PLUTZ!
GRABBAGA PLUTZ!
YEAH, BY THE WAY...
...EVER SINCE WE MET, YOU TWO HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING BUT CRY OUT "PLUTZ", "GRABBAGA PLUTZ", AND "CYSSSA".
AT FIRST I THOUGHT THAT THOSE WORDS WERE FORMS OF GREETING. CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT THEY MEAN?
HA HA HA! HEAR THAT, SERGEANT? FORMS OF GREETING!
PHHNCY 'ATH! *
* "INCREDIBLE!"

I'LL EXPLAIN. PLUTZ TRANSLATES TO PSSST... PSSST!
EEEH?
AS FOR GRABBAGA PLUTZ AND CYSSSA, THEY MEAN PSSST... PSSST AND PSSST!
YOU CAN'T SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN A DUCK AVENGER ADVENTURE!
REALLY? I DID IT ALL THE TIME!
NEXT STOP, DUCKBURG! PREPARE TO GET OFF!
WELL, COLONEL, I CAN CONSIDER THIS A HONORABLE DISCHARGE.
I DON'T LIKE CORNY GOODBYES, DUCK AVENGER! TAKE THIS.


SFEH YUE OLAATR.*
SEE YOU NEXT TIME, RECRUIT!
WHY NOT! MAYBE FOR A REUNION BETWEEN COMRADES IN ARMS! HE HE!
* "FAREWELL!"
WHAT IS THAT DEVICE NEOPARD GAVE YOU?
CURIOUS, ARE WE? TRY TO... EXTRAPOLATE, BRAINIAC!
PROBABLY A INTERUNIVERSAL TRANSMITTER TO CALL HIM IN CASE OF NEED, JUST LIKE IN THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION FILMS!
DID I GUESS RIGHT?
ALMOST. IT ACTUALLY CONTAINS HYPER-SPATIAL CODES TO CONTACT...
... BUT IT IS HIS PROPORTIONAL TECHNO-BROCHURES, COMPLETE WITH TARIFFS! IN CASE OF NEED, INDEED!
HA HA HA! PLUTZ...
... GRAB-BAGA PLUTZ...
... AND CYSSSA!
TARIFFS!
SPECIAL OFFER!

Slut.

DID YOU SEE THE NEW GIRL THEY HIRED? SHE SAYS SHE'S THIRTY!
WELL, I GUESS SHE WAS, A LONG TIME AGO! HAHAHA!
WALT DISNEY
I HOPE YOU DIDN'T MISS THE INTERVIEW WITH BETTY FLOPPSON LAST EVENING AT EIGHT PM! ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS!
HEY! DON'T YOU DARE BAD-MOUTHING BETTY FLOPPSON! SHE'S MY IDOL!
5Y
Gossip
AS AN ACTRESS, SHE'S YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL, SMART...
SMART?
AT LEAST SHE'S THE ONLY ONE AMONG HER COLLEAGUES WHO'S ABLE TO COUNT WITHOUT USING HER FINGERS!
THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE IT WOULD RUIN HER NAIL POLISH.
DON'T YOU AGREE, LYLA?
WHAT?
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT BETTY FLOPPSON!
OH... I'M SORRY, I WASN'T LISTENING.

IT APPEARS AS IF THE FAVOURITE SPORT IN THIS PLACE WAS OFFICE GOSSIP!
IF YOU ASK ME, I'D SAY MORRIGHAN'S WEARING A TOUPEE!
COME ON!
THIS SURELY HAS TO BE ONE OF THE MOST INCOMPREHENSIBLE HUMAN AVOCATIONS. THOUGH, IT'S NOT AS BAD AS SKIING OR TALKING ABOUT THE TIME TO COME!
I BET THEY'LL START TALKING ABOUT ME THE MOMENT I STEP OUT OF THIS ROOM!
LET'S SEE HOW WELL I KNOW THE POPULOUS OF THIS CENTURY...
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
NOW ALL THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE IS TO RAISE MY SOUND-RECEIVING FUNCTIONS TO THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL...

...AND LISTEN!
...BZZZCRKL... HAHAHA! BUT HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST ABOUT ZIGGY, THE ERRAND BOY...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? TELL US!
?
?
?
!
WATCH OUT!
...JUST ISN'T MEETING THE EXPECTATIONS, THAT'S THE PROBLEM!
YEAH! I HAVE TO AGREE WITH YOU.
FRUSH
POF
PAF
I'LL TRY TO MAKE HASTE FINDING A REPLACEMENT... BZZZKRKCK...
I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS! THEY ARE PLANNING TO FIRE ZIGGY!
MODERN CUTTING TABLES JUST AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE!
THIS IS THE AGE OF DIABOLIC ELECTRONICS, OLD FRIEND. VERY EXPENSIVE BUT NEVER WORKING.
EXIT

HELLO LYLA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I... ERM... OF COURSE, DAN!
I MAY BE ALL RIGHT, BUT POOR ZIGGY WON'T BE HAVING THIS MUCH LUCK!
HE DOESN'T DESERVE TO LOSE HIS WORKING PLACE! HE'S ALWAYS BEEN QUITE A GOOD COLLEAGUE AND...
HI, LYLA!
H-HI, ZIGGY.
SHOULD I TELL HIM OR PRETEND I DON'T KNOW? I... I...
...I MAY BE ABLE TO HELP HIM OUT! AND I JUST KNOW HOW...

...AND WITH THIS I'M DONE! YAWN!
I'LL BE OFF, IT'S GETTING LATE. DO YOU PLAN TO SPEND THE NIGHT HERE, LYLA?
I STILL HAVE SOME STUFF TO DO FOR TOMORROW, MIKE, BUT I'M ALMOST DONE.
GOOD NIGHT, THEN. TURN OFF THE LIGHTS, WHEN YOU LEAVE.
HEHE! COUNT ON IT.
GOOD. THE OFFICES ARE DESERTED! NOW IT'S TIME TO JUMP INTO ACTION.
THE ARCHIVE OF VIDEOS! ZIGGY'S REALM!
A REALM OF UTTER CHAOS! THE CHANNEL OO DIRECTION WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEE THIS... AND I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN...

UNANSWERED MAIL! TAPES, WHICH HAVE TO BE CATALOGUED! DUST UP TO THE KNEES! COURAGE, LYLA...
THAT'S A LOT OF WORK...
...AND TIME IS SHORT!
Pok
WOW! IF I DARE SAY...

...ANOTHER MISSION ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE EFFICIENCY OF A CLASS 5Y DROID!
IN A COUPLE OF HOURS THE EDITORAL OFFICE WILL REPOPULATE AGAIN. I'LL HAVE ALL THE TIME TO GO HOME AND...
AHEM...
OH... G-GOOD MORNING, MEREDITH!
THIS PROBABLY AIN'T ANY OF MY BUSINESS, BUT... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS LAY?
EHM... I'M FINE. I... I WAS JUST WORKING OVERTIME!
OH, I UNDERSTAND.
HEHE! I'D LIKE TO SEE ZIGGY'S FACE, WHEN HE FINDS OUT...

EPILOGUE

ZIGGY WAS REWARDED WITH A CONSIDERABLE RAISE ON HIS PAY CHECK AND FURTHER ENTRUSTED WITH ANOTHER PRESTIGIOUS TASK...

...THE CHANNEL OO CENTRAL ARCHIVE.

I REPEAT IT, DIRECTOR! THIS HAS TO BE A MISUNDERSTANDING! I DIDN'T DO THIS!

YOU'RE WAY TOO HUMBLE, BOY!

REGARDING LYLA, AFTER THIS EXPERIENCE SHE SWORE TO NEVER EVESDROP AGAIN.

WHICH ACTUALLY WAS A BAD IDEA. OTHERWISE SHE'D HAVE HEARD SOME INTERESTING THINGS.

IT'S TRUE, I TELL YOU! MEREDITH, THE CLEANING LADY SAW HER!

IMPOSSIBLE! I... I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

I'M SAYING, THAT'S HEAVY! WHO'D PULL AN ALL-NIGHTER JUST TO IMPROVE THEIR PAY?

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I'M THINKING? SHE PROBABLY OWES MONEY TO THE WRONG PEOPLE.

A NEW CUTTING TABLE REPLACED THE OLD ONE.

WHICH ALSO NEVER WORKED.

FINE